Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
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KNUCKLES™
THE ECHIDNA
DIRECT EDITION
SPAZ PENDERS

KNUCKLES™
BOOK NINETEEN

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as **GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND,** defender of all the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten within, he is none other than... **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

The Forbidden Zone
Part One of Three

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Many years ago, during the **Great War,** when **Princess Sally** was but an infant, **King Acorn** sent his wife **Queen Alicia** to The Floating Island in order to insure the safety of his Queen and **the future of Mobotropolis**. It resulted in failure.

Recently, the newly-returned, now-healthy King assigned a squad of his elite commandos to return to The Floating Island and ascertain the true fate of his loved ones.

It is here our tale begins...

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DAY ONE

I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS GOING TO BE CLEAR SKIES, MATE!

ZIS IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, ST. JOHN!

I'VE FLOWN IN WORSE!

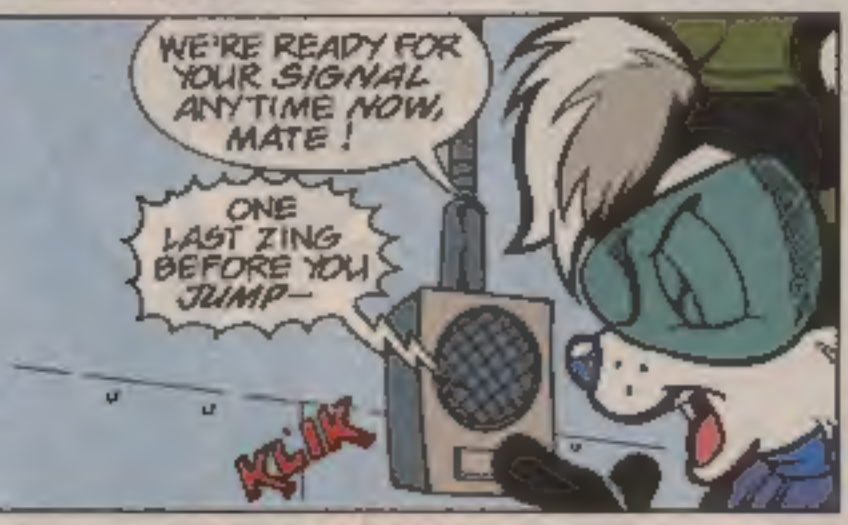
JUST SO LONG AS YOU GET US TO THE LANDING POINT!

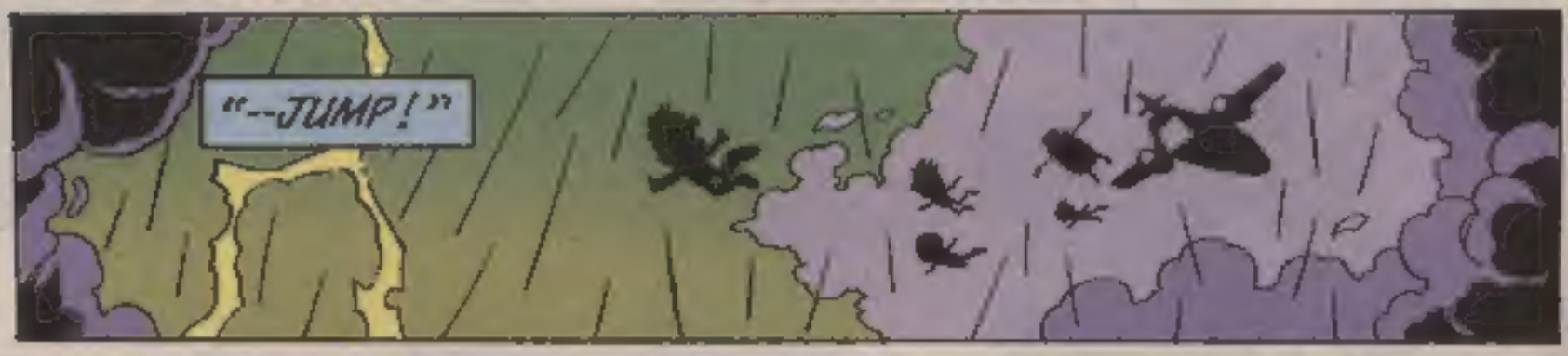
I'D HATE TO SEE THE GAME CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF WEATHER!

IF IT IS, IT WON'T BE BECAUSE OF MOI!

GET YOUR TEAM READY TO HIT THE DROP POINT!

EVERYONE ALL SET?
ANY QUESTIONS?
YEAH!
COMMANDER, I--
SAVE 'EM FOR LATER!



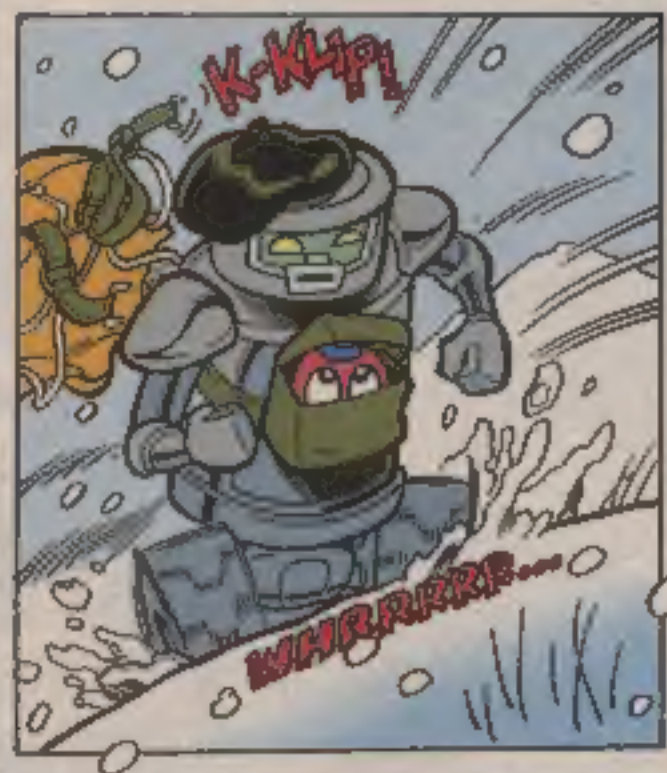


KNUCKLES IN

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO Queen Alicia?

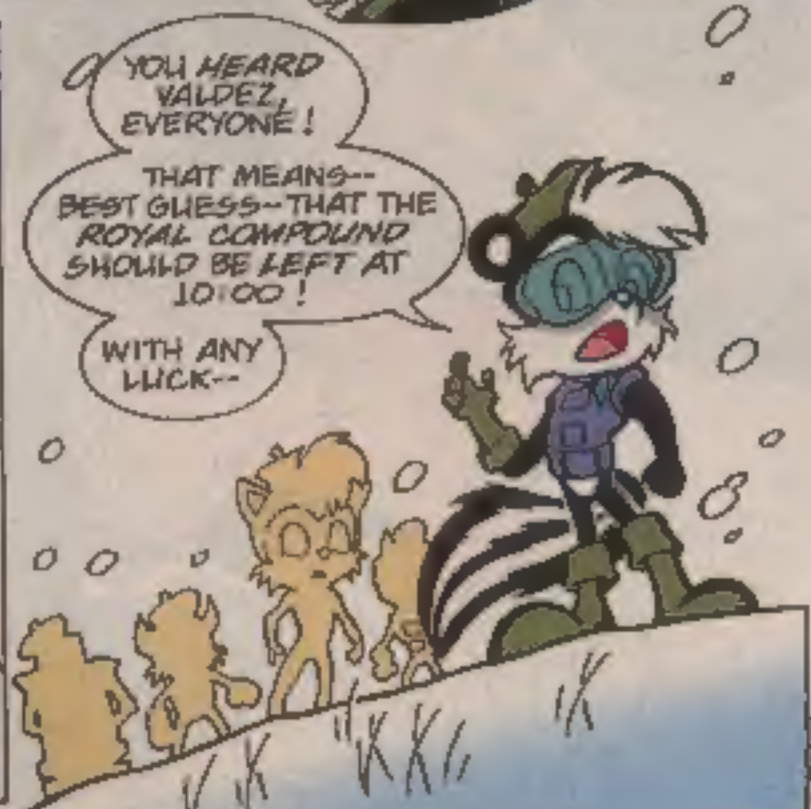
QUIT YER BELLYACHIN', ALLA YA!
WHEN I WANNA HEAR CLUCKING HENS, I'LL LET YOU KNOW!
NOW, LET'S DITCH THE PARACHUTES AND PREPARE TO MOVE OUT!

FORTUNATELY--
--I WAS DESIGNED TO BE MOBILE IN A WIDE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTS!

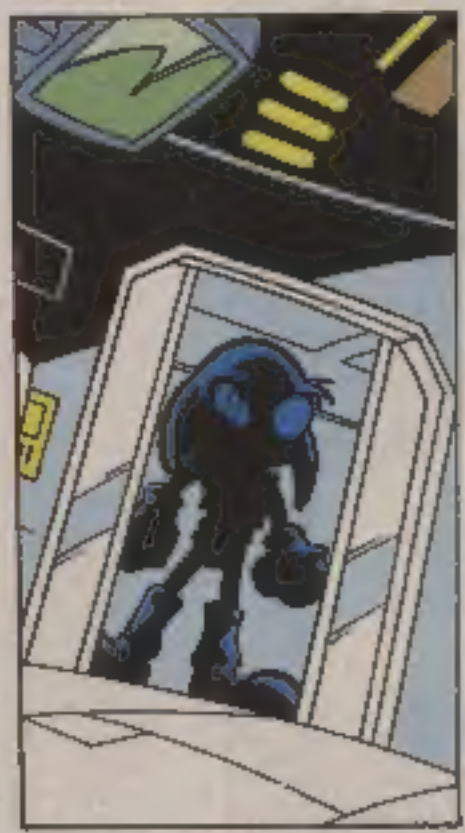

K-KLIP!
WHIRRRRR...

LET'S GET OUR BEARINGS, FIRST!
NO TELLING HOW FAR WE MAY HAVE LANDED OFF TARGET!
VALDEZ?
FORGET IT, COMMANDER!
IN THIS WEATHER, ALL I CAN GIVE YOU IS MY BEST GUESS!

AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I'D SWEAR THOSE ARE SOME OF THE SANDOPOLIS RUINS!
IF THAT'S SO, NORTH IS TO OUR RIGHT!


YOU HEARD VALDEZ, EVERYONE!
THAT MEANS--BEST GUESS--THAT THE ROYAL COMPOUND SHOULD BE LEFT AT 10:00!
WITH ANY LUCK--

"...WE SHOULD REACH THE COMPOUND BEFORE *NIGHTFALL*!"



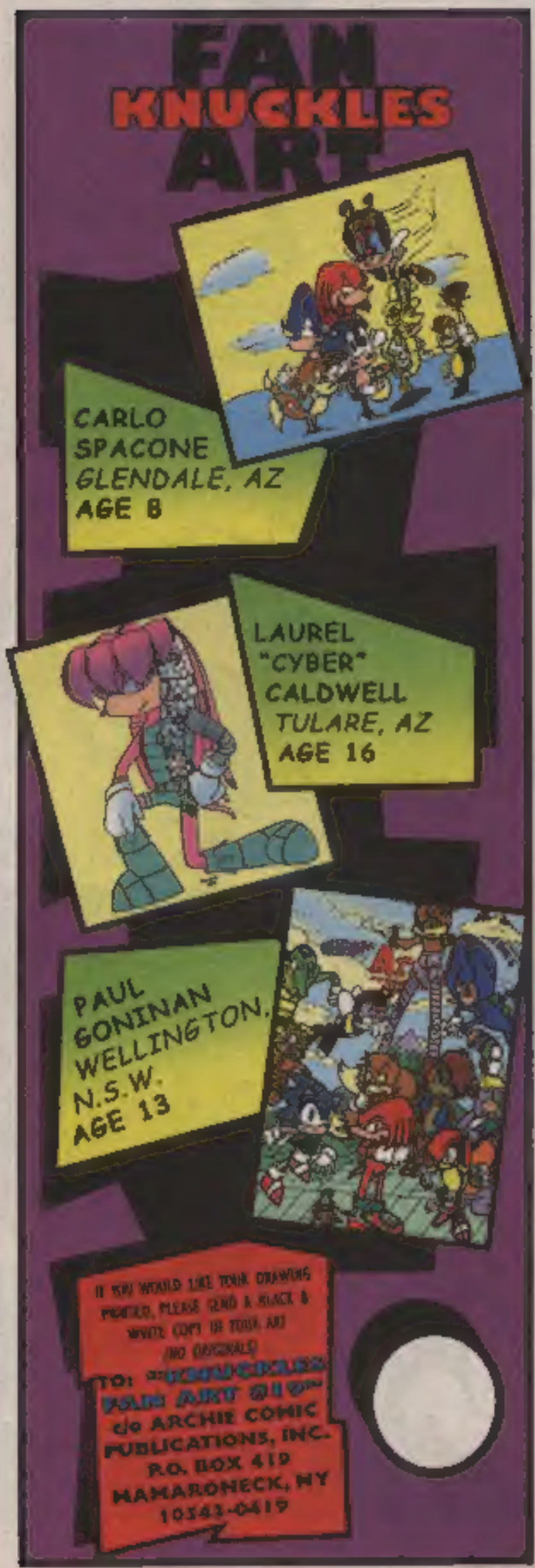
I CAME BY TO CHECK IN AND SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING!

I CAN TAKE OVER FOR YOU IF YOU LIKE!

MUCH AS I *APPRECIATE* THE OFFER, FATHER, MY PLACE IS *HERE* RIGHT *NOW*!

WE'RE ABOUT TO GO FROM THE *FRYING PAN* INTO THE *FIRE* ONCE AGAIN!

OH?



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2. Open to legal residents of U.S. Employees of Universal Studios, Nabisco Inc., their affiliates, subsidiaries, agencies, retailers, and the immediate families of each and persons living in the household of each are not eligible. Void where prohibited. Limit 1 prize per calendar month per phone # (phone from which call was placed). Limit 1 Grand Prize per household, address or family. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Winners are subject to verification. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. All prizes will be awarded.

3. Grand Prizes will be awarded at end of program in random drawing from among all eligible, completed calls received. Please note that calling several times per day will not allow you to be entered into the drawing more than once per day—only one call per day from any given phone number will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing! Drawing conducted on or about 2/15/99. 1st through 2nd Prize Winners will be selected via random intercepts of calls during program period, will be notified that they have won during call, and will be notified by mail within 6-8 weeks of winning call. Grand Prize Winners will be notified by mail on or about 3/15/99. Random intercepts, drawings and notification are under supervision of Carlson Draddy and Associates, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final.

4. Fifteen (15) Grand Prizes—During Halloween, 1999, a 4-day/3-night trip for Winner and three (3) guests to Orlando, FL, including round-trip coach air travel from major gateway city nearest to Winner's home, double- occupancy hotel accommodations, transfers, 1-day VIP admission to Universal Studios Florida, 1-day admission to Universal Studios Halloween Horror Nights, 1-day admission to Universal Studios Islands of Adventure and party with Universal Studios Classic Monsters, plus $500 spending money. All meals (except party), ground transportation, taxes and any other expenses not specified above are the sole responsibility of the Winner. Approximate retail value (ARV): $7,500. One Thousand (1,000) First Prizes—a Universal Studios Classic Monsters gift, to be selected by sponsor, and six (6) coupons each redeemable for a free Nabisco snack product up to $3.50. ARV: $60.00. Second Prizes (10,000)—a coupon redeemable for a free Nabisco snack product up to $3.50. ARV: $3.50. If under 18, one of Grand Prize Winner's guests must be Winner's parent or legal guardian. Grand Prize Winners and their parents/legal guardians will be required to execute and return Affidavits of Eligibility, and along with their guests, Publicity/Liability Releases, within 14 days of notification. By participating in this Sweepstakes, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the judges. By acceptance of Prize, Winners consent to Sponsor's use of their name and/or likeness and biographical information for commercial purposes without additional notification or compensation, except where prohibited. Grand Prize travel must be taken on dates specified by Sponsor. Prizes are not transferable or assignable. No substitution of prizes is allowed, except at Sponsor's sole discretion. If Grand Prize Winner is not available on the date specified by Sponsor, an alternate Winner will be selected from among all remaining eligible entries. Entrants agree to release, discharge and hold harmless Nabisco Biscuit Co., its affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, and their employees, from any and all claims or damages, including personal injury and/or death arising out of Entrant's participation in the sweepstakes and in the acceptance and use and/or misuse any of the prizes awarded therefrom.

5. For a list of Grand Prize Winners, available after May 29, 1999, or for a copy of these Official Rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Nabisco Universal Studios Trip Winners, P.O. Box 3509, Dept. Z, St. Cloud, MN 56397, by July 1, 1999.

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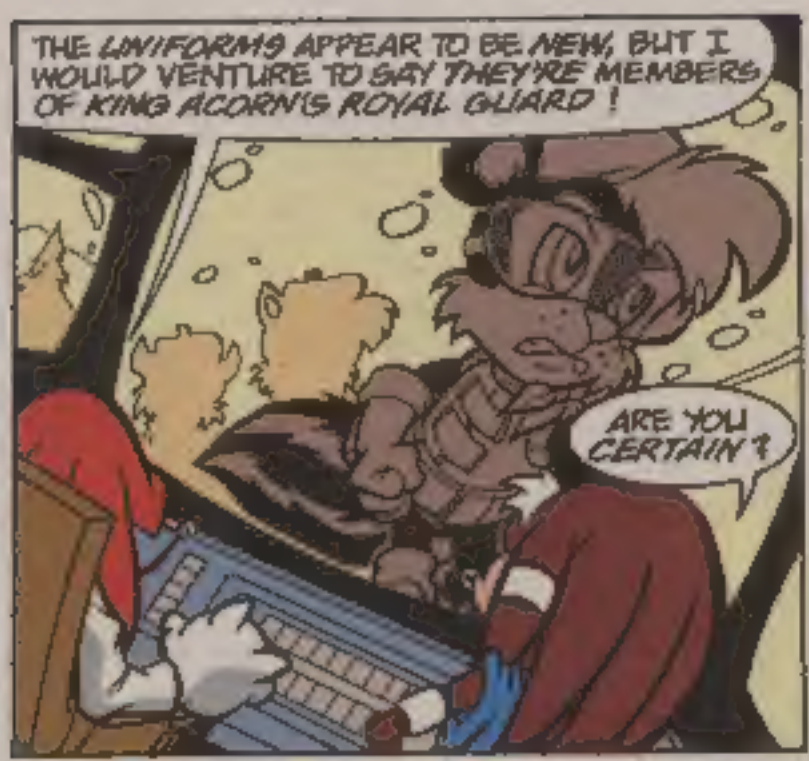
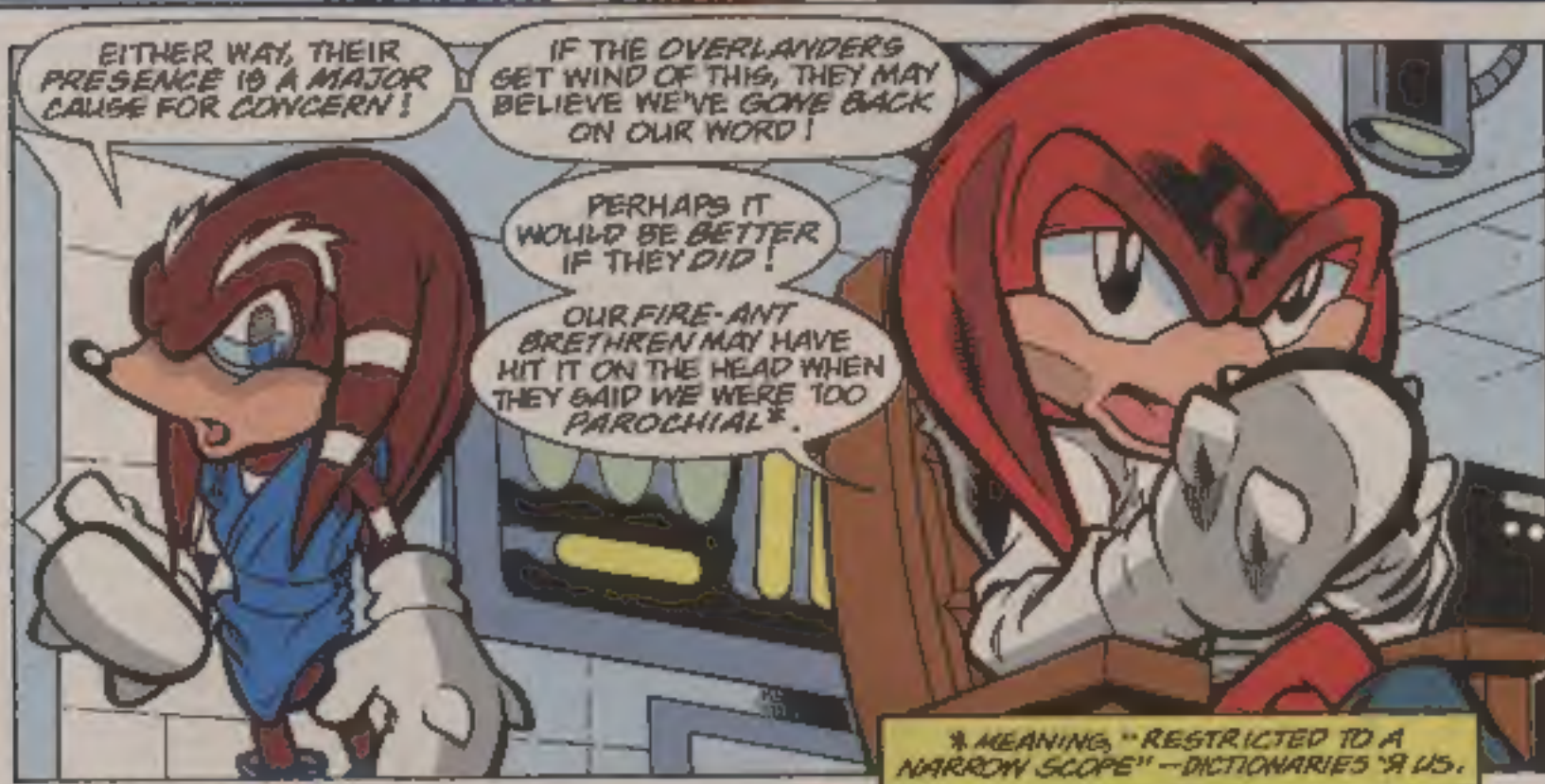

THE UNIFORMS APPEAR TO BE NEW, BUT I WOULD VENTURE TO SAY THEY'RE MEMBERS OF KING ACORN'S ROYAL GUARD!
ARE YOU CERTAIN?

I'M CHECKING THE DATABASES NOW FOR CONFIRMATION!
LO AND BEHOLD—

--WE HAVE A MATCH!
COMMANDER IAN ST. JOHN OF HIS ROYAL MAJESTY'S ELITE GUARD!
NOT QUITE! LOOK AT THE READOUT!
THE COMMANDER IS IN EXCEPTIONAL HEALTH FOR A CORPSE--
DECEASED; KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.
--OR ELSE THAT'S HIS SON!


EITHER WAY, THEIR PRESENCE IS A MAJOR CAUSE FOR CONCERN!
IF THE OVERLANDERS GET WIND OF THIS, THEY MAY BELIEVE WE'VE GONE BACK ON OUR WORD!
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY DID!
OUR FIRE-ANT BRETHREN MAY HAVE HIT IT ON THE HEAD WHEN THEY SAID WE WERE TOO PAROCHIAL*.
* MEANING, "RESTRICTED TO A NARROW SCOPE" --DICTIONARIES 'R US.

I'M VERY SERIOUS, FATHER!

I'VE BEEN WATCHING KNUCKLES FOR YEARS AND HE DOESN'T CONCERN HIMSELF SOLELY WITH ECHIDNA AFFAIRS!

HE'S PROBABLY BEEN THE FIRST GUARDIAN THAT'S TRULY LOOKED AFTER EVERYONE'S WELL-BEING ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

EH?

A TRANSPONDER EMERGENCY BEACON!

SCREEN TWO ON!

IT APPEARS TO BE AN EMERGENCY LANDING!

A GOVERNMENT HOVERCRAFT, NO LESS!

WHAT IN BLAZES WERE THEY DOING FLYING IN THIS WEATHER?!!

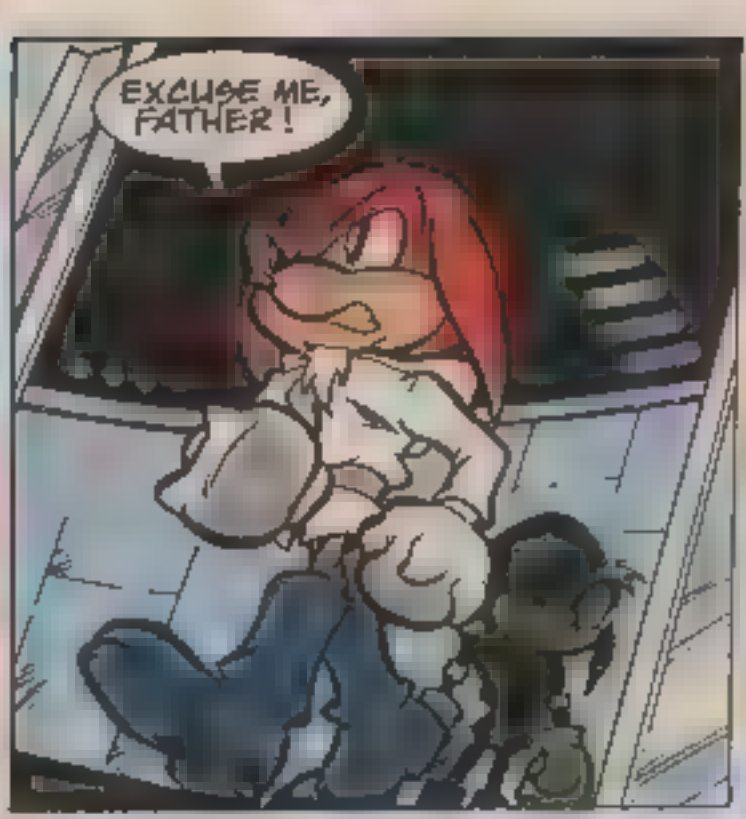
I'M SURE CONSTABLE REMINGTON WILL HAVE A FEW CHOICE WORDS TO SAY ONCE HIS MEN REACH THE CRAFT!

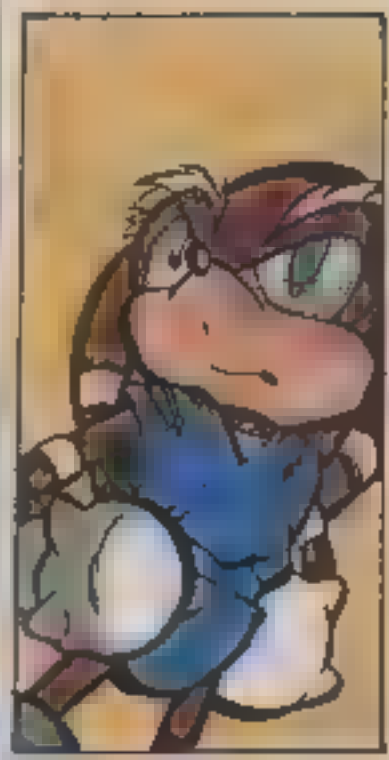
WHA-?!!

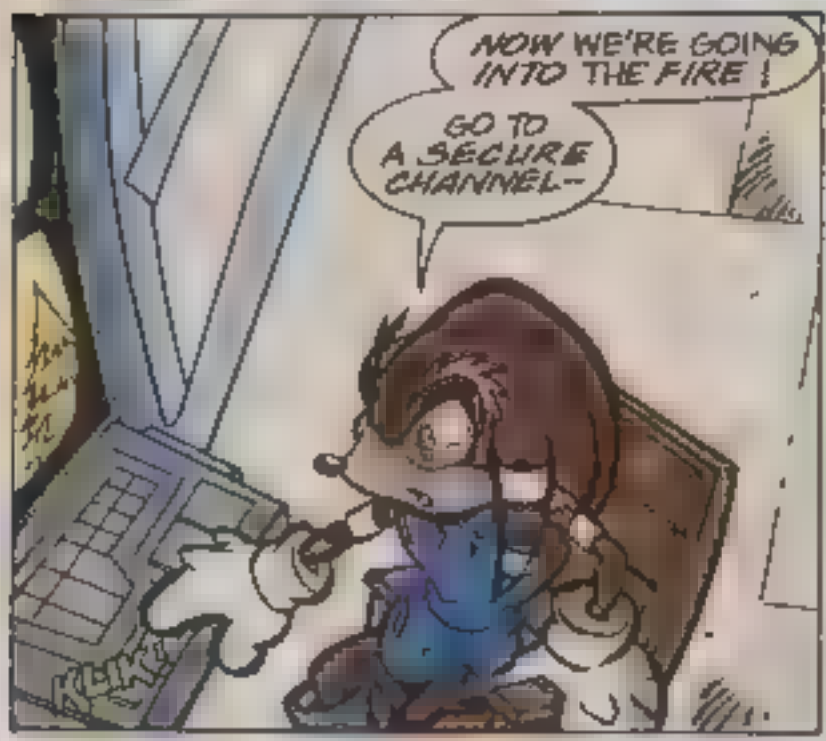
GREAT AURORA!

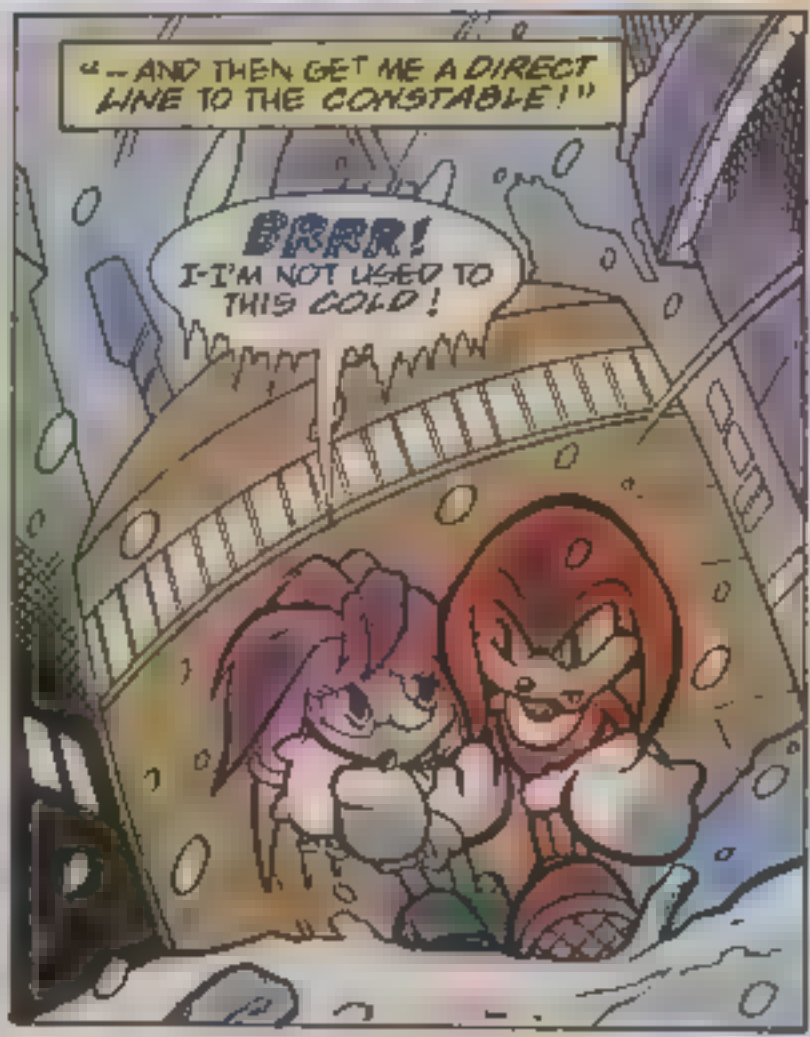
LARA

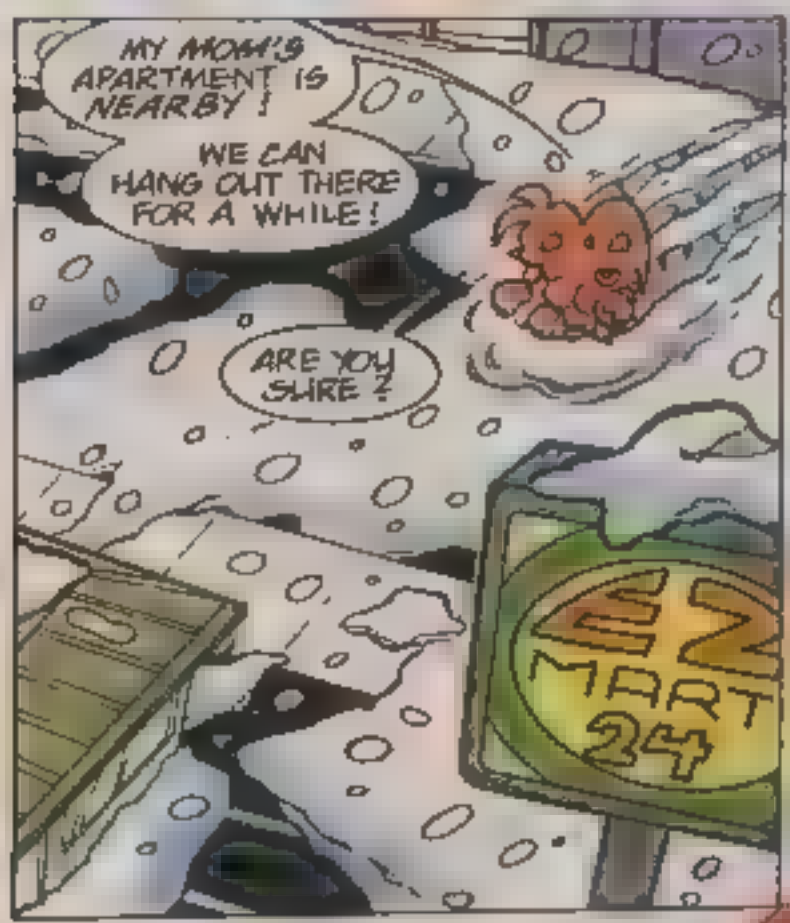
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I MAY HAVE A FEW CHOICE WORDS FOR HER MYSELF!

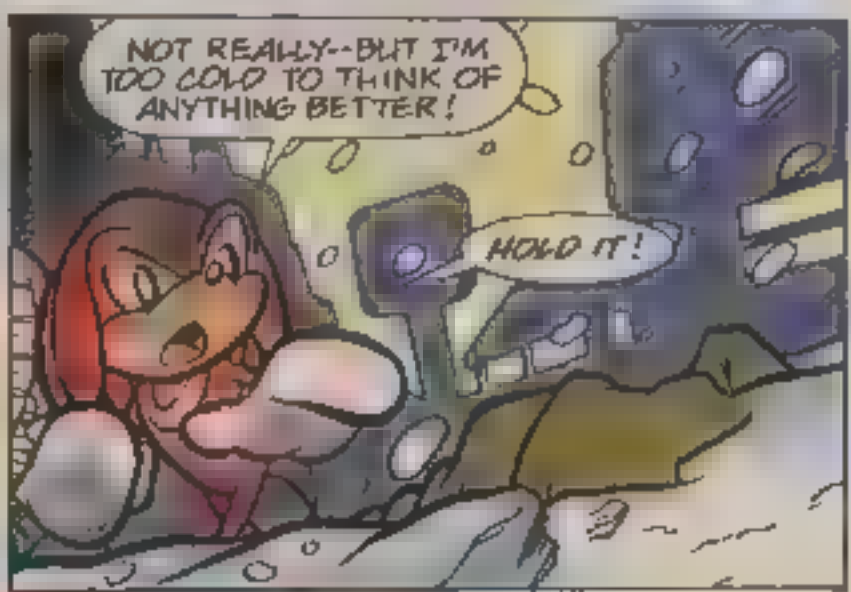

EXCUSE ME, FATHER!



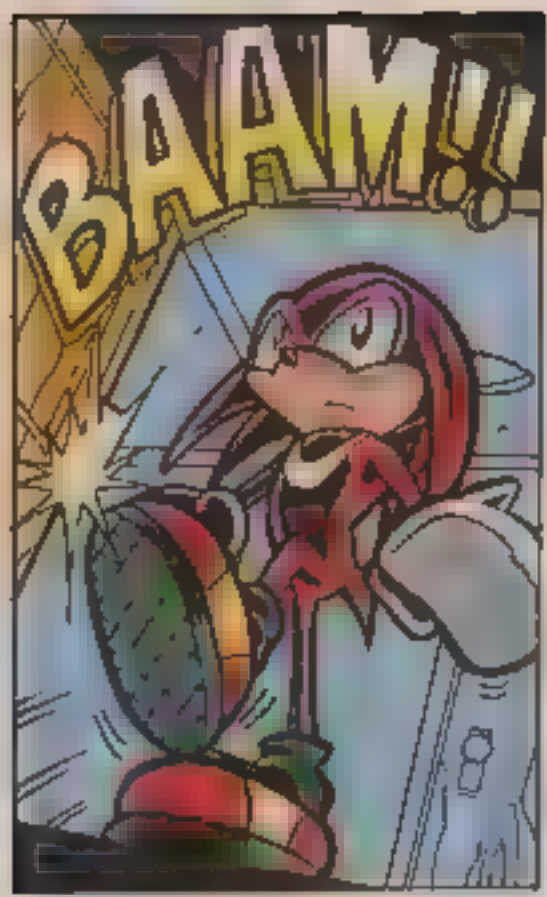

NOW WE'RE GOING INTO THE FIRE!
GO TO A SECURE CHANNEL--

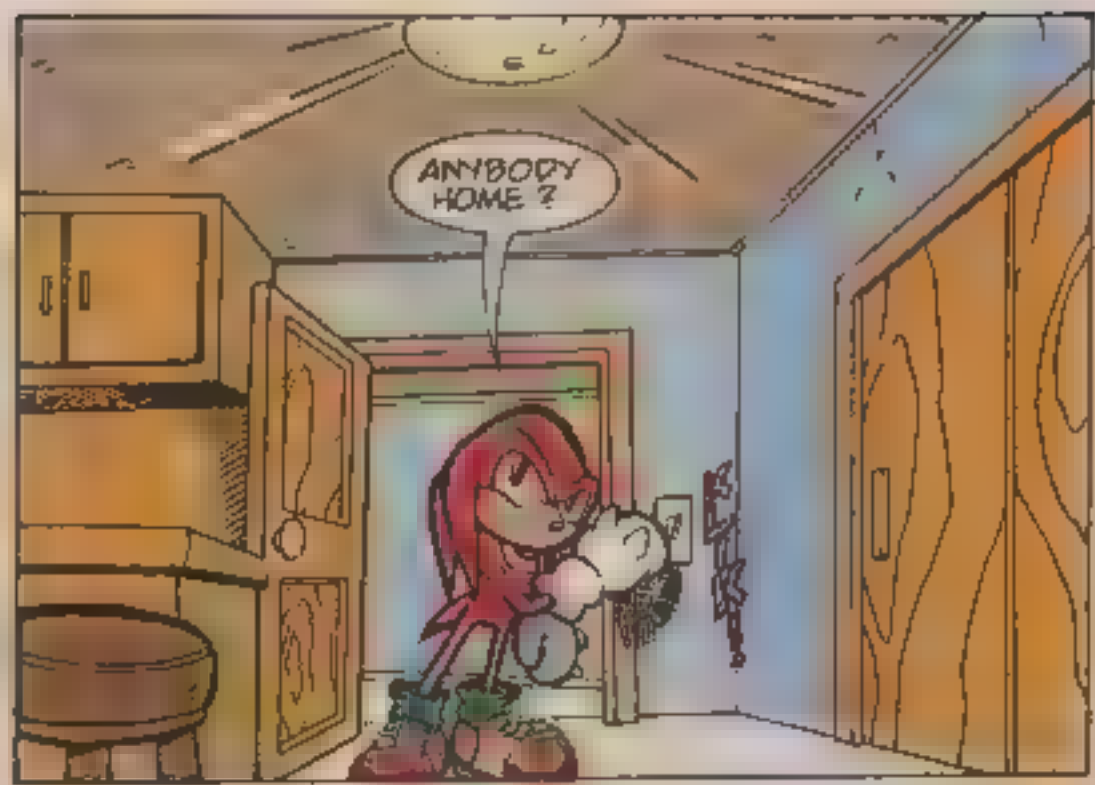

"--AND THEN GET ME A DIRECT LINE TO THE CONSTABLE!"
BRRR!
I-I'M NOT USED TO THIS COLD!

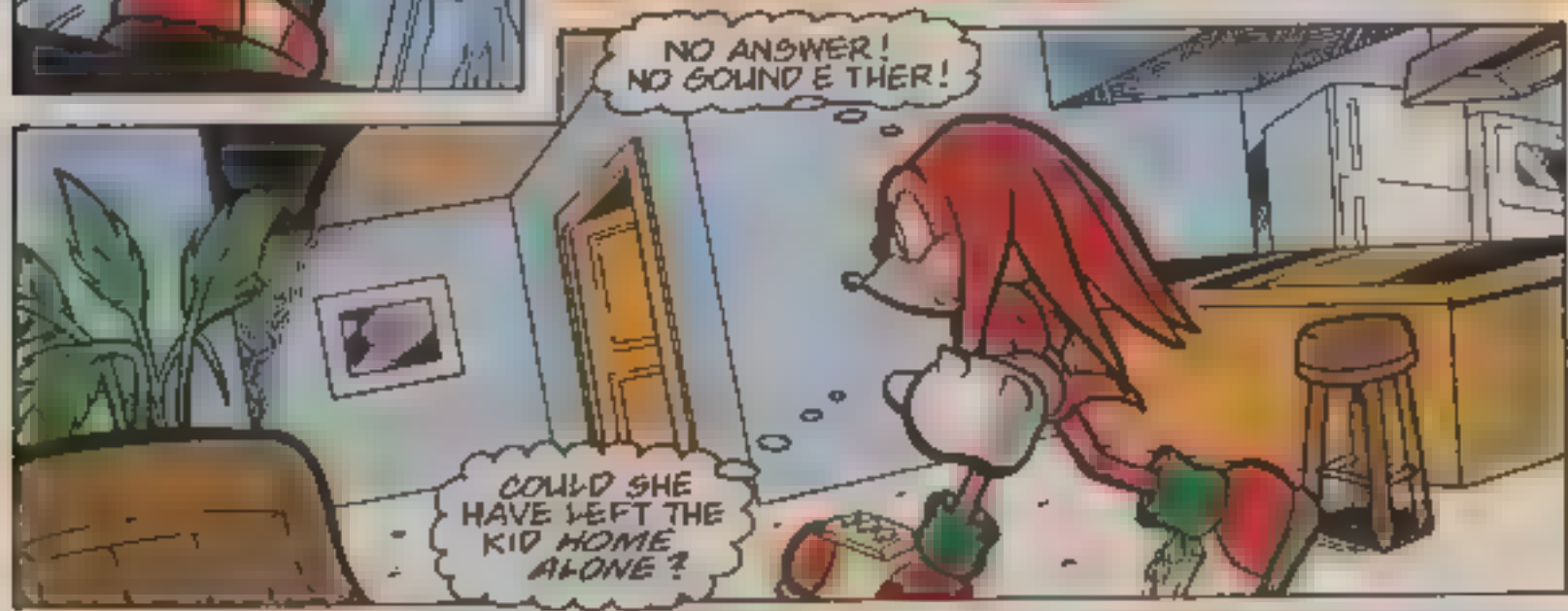

MY MOM'S APARTMENT IS NEARBY!
WE CAN HANG OUT THERE FOR A WHILE!
ARE YOU SURE?
MART 24

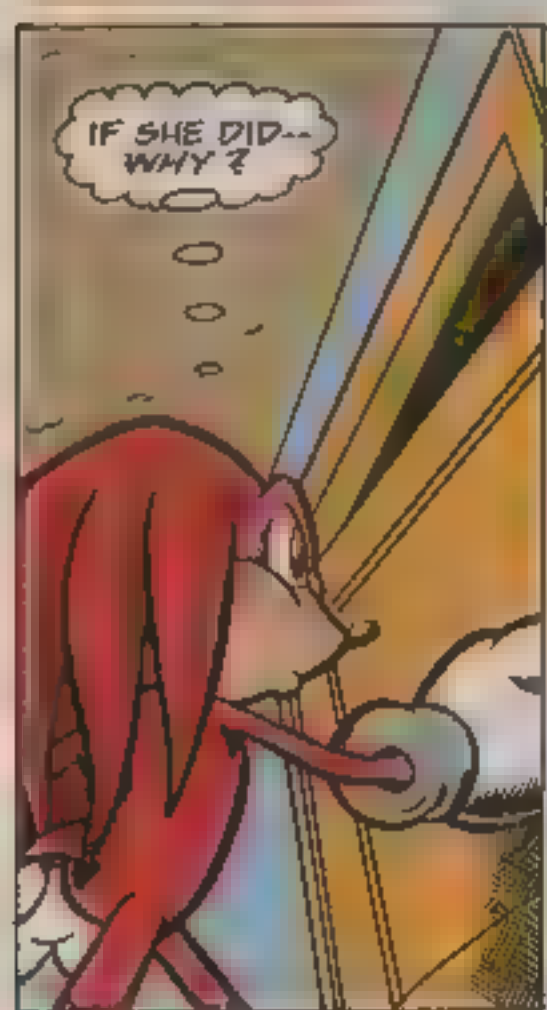

NOT REALLY--BUT I'M TOO COLD TO THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER!
HOLD IT!

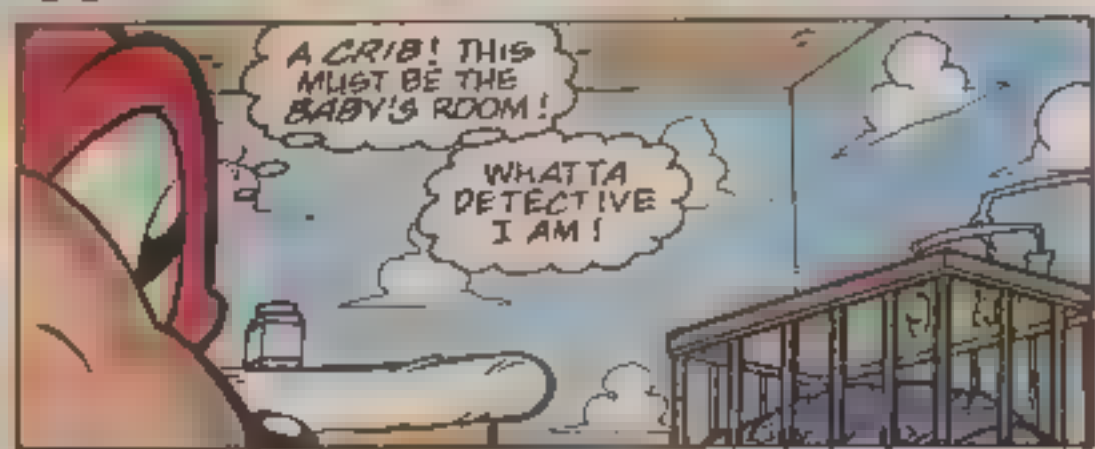
M-M-MY B-B-B-BABY..
CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE, JULIE-SU!
GOTCHA!
WHAT BABY?
M-M-MY B-B-BAY-BEE..
THERE'S NO BABY HERE!
PLEASE, MA'AM-
WHERE'S THE BABY?
B-B-BA BABY H-H-HOME!
WHERE'S HOME?

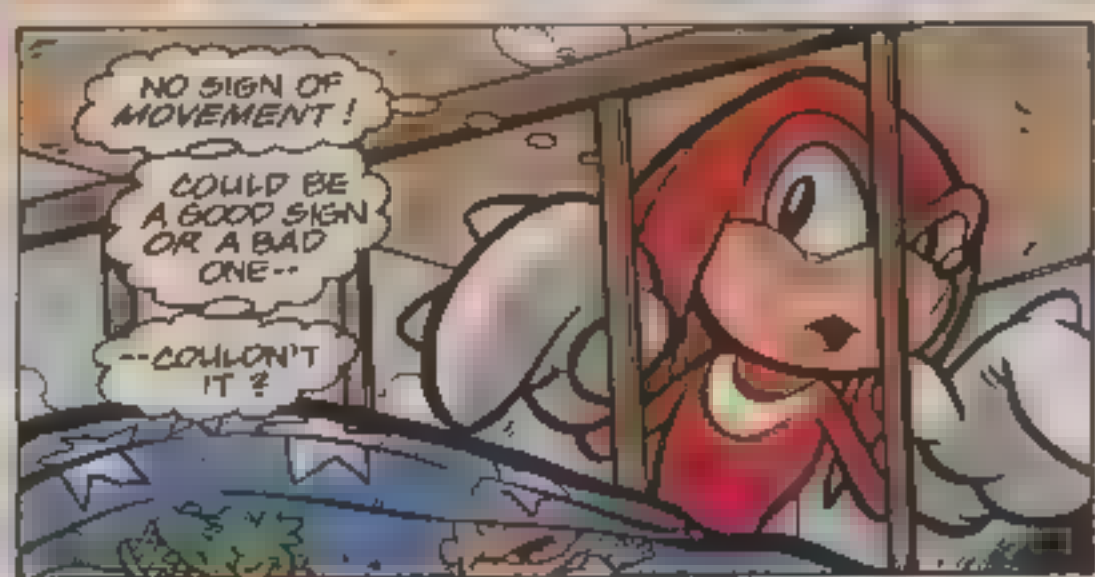

BAAM!!


ANYBODY HOME ?

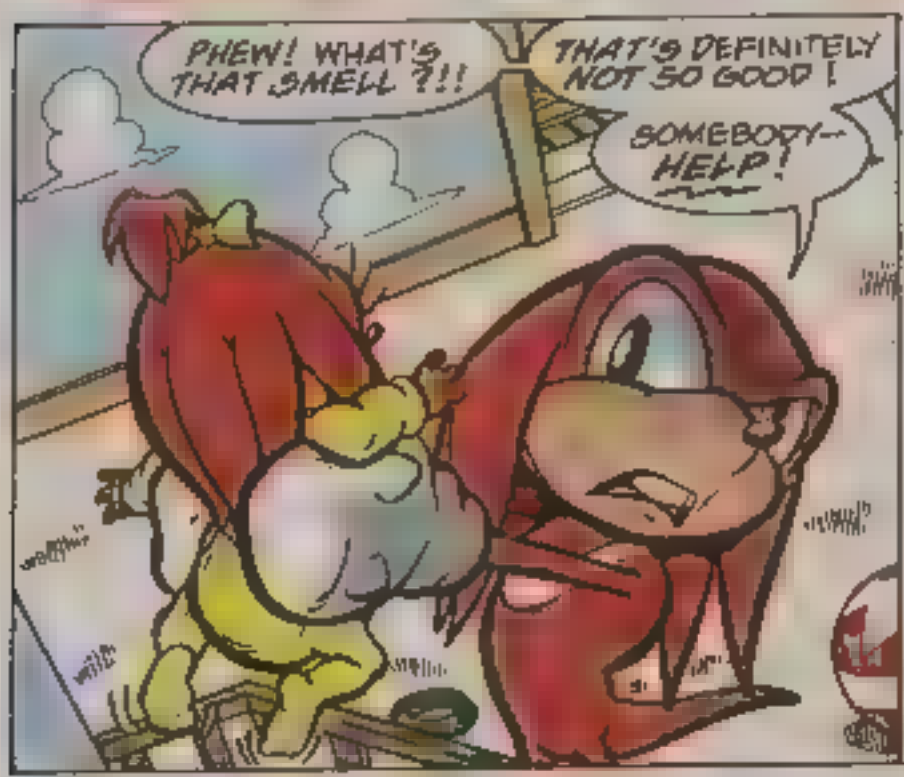

NO ANSWER! NO SOUND E THER!
COULD SHE HAVE LEFT THE KID HOME ALONE ?

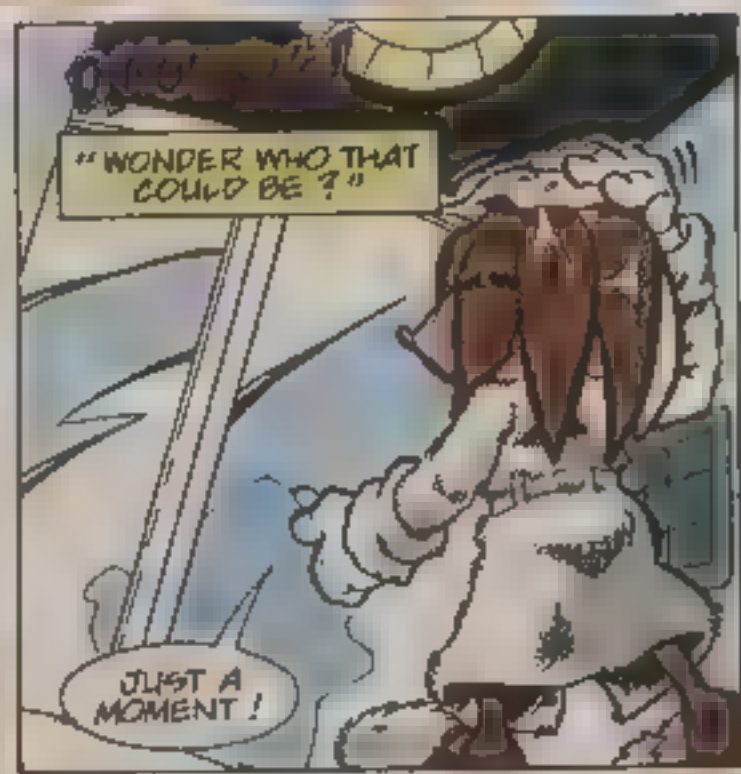

IF SHE DID-- WHY ?

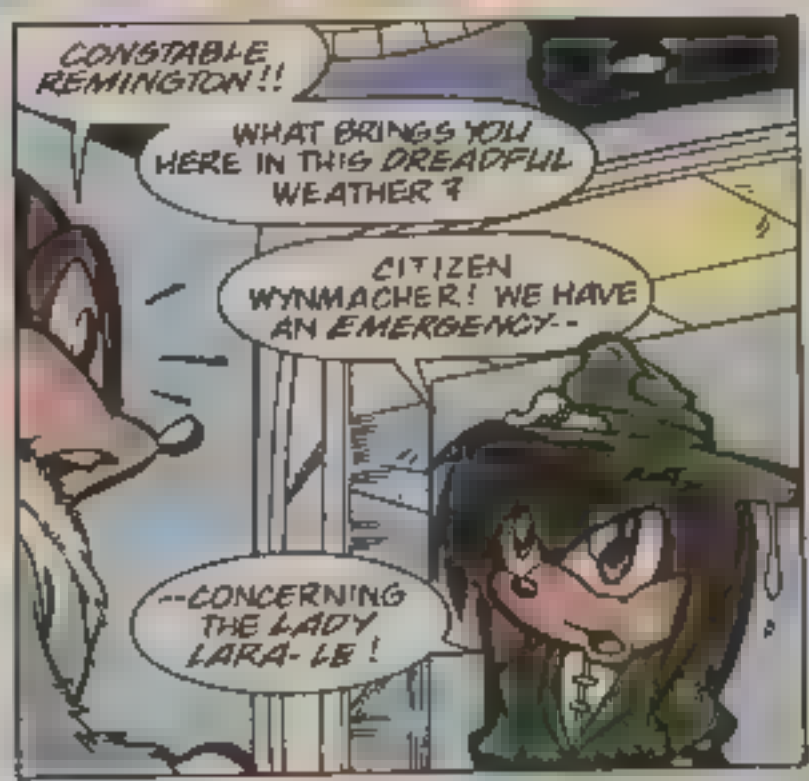

A CRIB! THIS MUST BE THE BABY'S ROOM!
WHATTA DETECTIVE I AM!

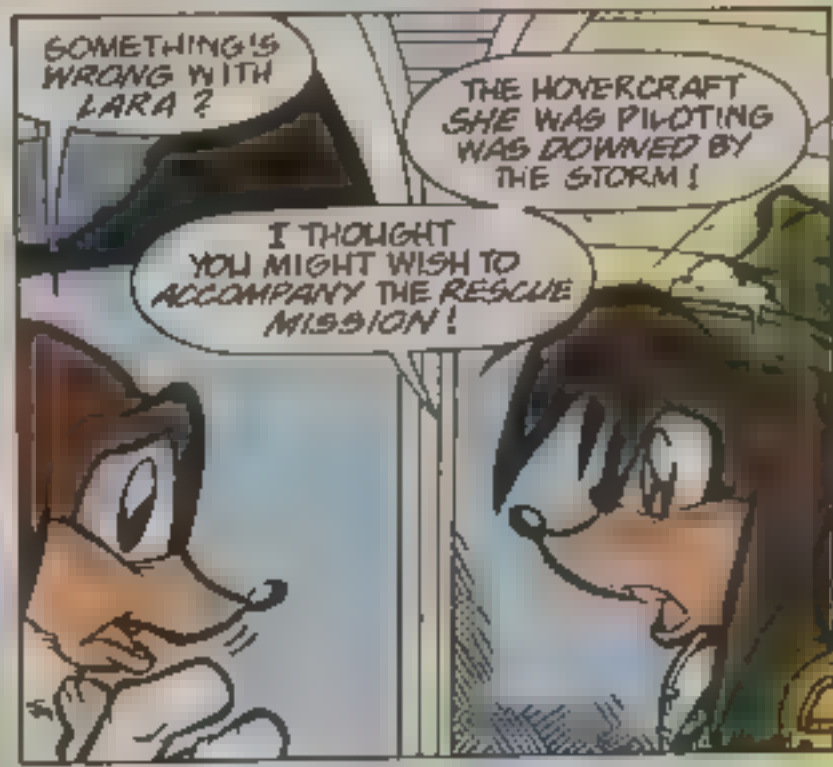

NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT!
COULD BE A GOOD SIGN OR A BAD ONE--
--COULDN'T IT ?

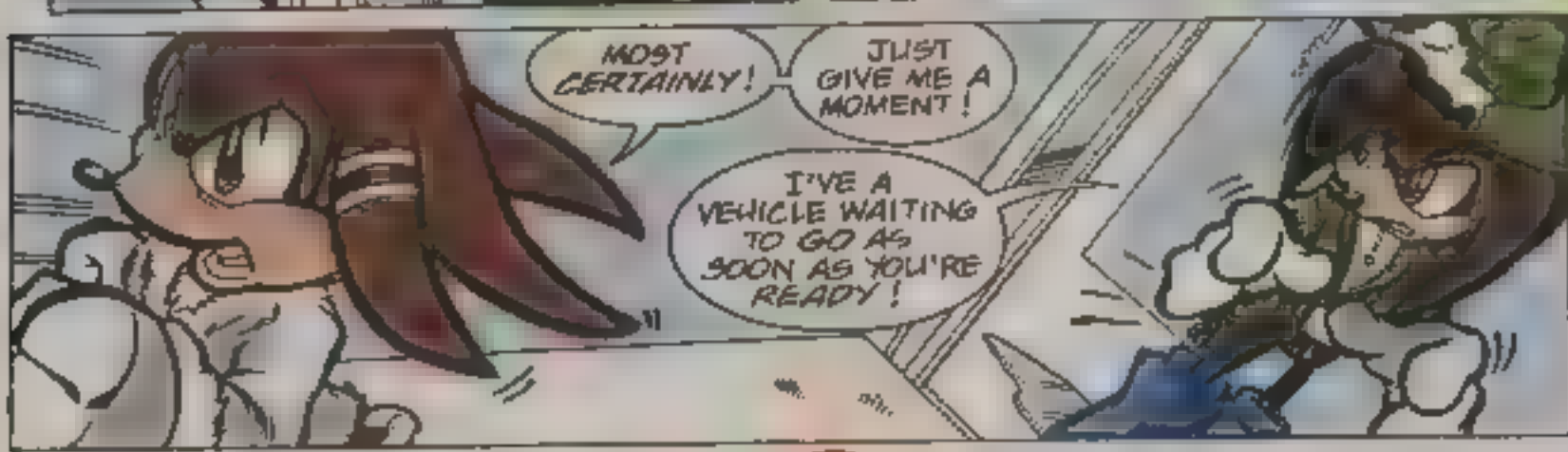
THE BABY'S MOVING!!
DEFINITELY A GOOD SIGN!


PHEW! WHAT'S THAT SMELL?!!
THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT SO GOOD!
SOMEBODY-- HELP!


"WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE?"
JUST A MOMENT!


CONSTABLE REMINGTON!!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE IN THIS DREADFUL WEATHER?
CITIZEN WYNMACHER! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY--
--CONCERNING THE LADY LARA-LE!


SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH LARA?
THE HOVERCRAFT SHE WAS PILOTING WAS DOWNED BY THE STORM!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WISH TO ACCOMPANY THE RESCUE MISSION!


MOST CERTAINLY!
JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT!
I'VE A VEHICLE WAITING TO GO AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY!

"REMINGTON! WHAT'S THE LATEST?"

T-T-THIS SNOWFALL IS R-R-REALLY B-BE-BEGINNING TO GRATE ON MY NERVES!

H-H-HOW MUCH F-F-FURTHER, C-COMMANDER?

I-I-IT'S THE C-C-COLD THAT'S G-G-GETTING TO M-M-ME!

HANG IN THERE, TROOPS!

JUST REMEMBER--

--W-W-WHEN THE GOING G-GETS TOUGH--

--THE TOUGH KEEP TRUDGING ON THROUGH THE SNOW!

DOESN'T THIS FUNKY WEATHER KINDA MAKE YOU THINK SOMETHING BIGGER'S GOING ON?

ROTOR TOLD ME RECENTLY HE THOUGHT ALL OF ROBOTNIK'S POLLUTION WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN THE LONG RUN!

WHY GET WORKED UP OVER THE WEATHER?

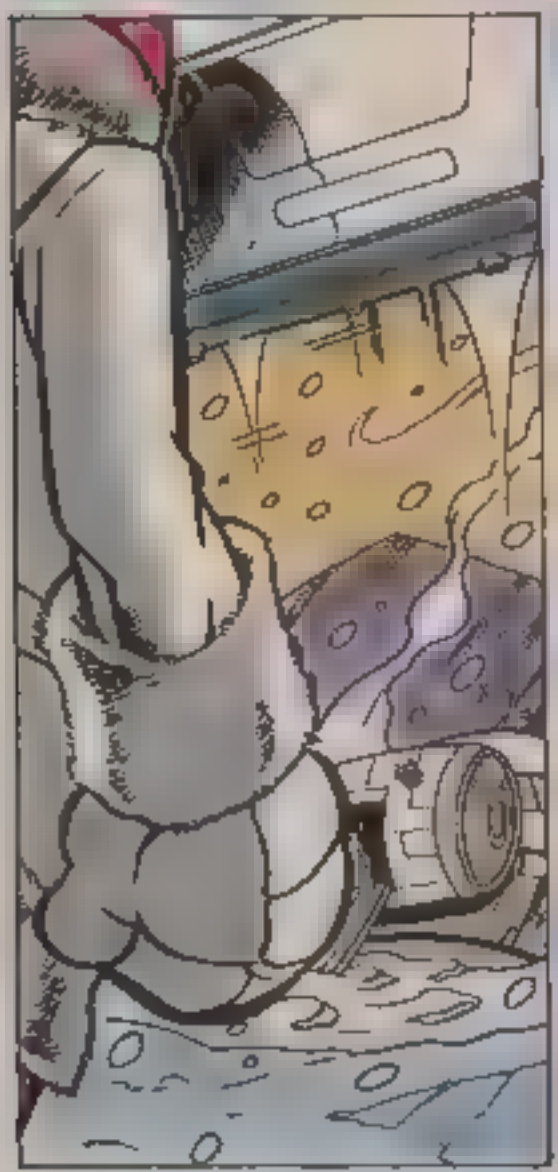
OUR ONLY CONCERN SHOULD BE THE MISSION!

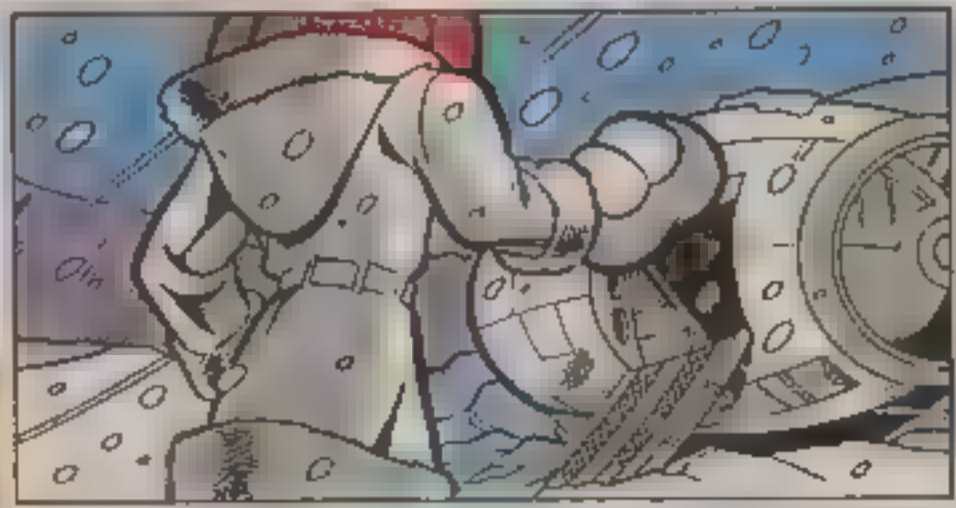
SPEAKING OF WHICH--

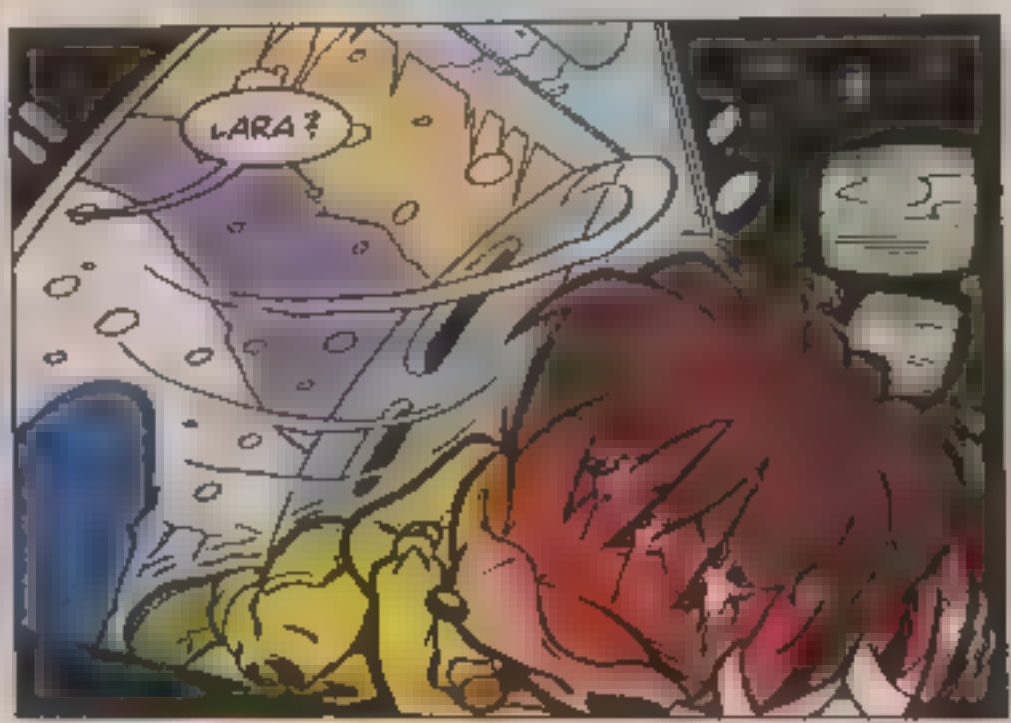
THERE'S SOMETHING UP AHEAD!

HEAVY--

"--I WANT YOU AND BOMB TO COME WITH ME TO SCOPE IT OUT!"






LARA?

LARA CAN YOU
HEAR ME?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHA--? WHO--?
I MAY NOT BE YOUR FAVORITE ECHIDNA, LARA--
BUT I FIND IT HARD TO COMPREHEND YOU'D FORGET YOUR HUSBAND!
OH, MY--! LOCKE!
YOU MEAN EX-- DON'T YOU?
HERE I AM ALL CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, AND YOU'RE IMMEDIATELY ON THE DEFENSIVE!
CAN YOU BLAME ME?
I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU!
JUST ONCE--

"...I'D LIKE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION INSTEAD OF STARTING WITH AN ARGUMENT!"

JULIE-SU!

ABOUT TIME SOMEONE GOT HERE!

CONSTABLE REMINGTON'S PEOPLE CAME AS QUICK AS THEY COULD!

HOW'S THE BABY?

THE BABY'S DOING FINE!

IT'S ME I'M NOT SO SURE OF!

I'LL TAKE HER NOW, GUARDIAN!

IF YOU'LL FOLLOW OFFICER FLINT--

"--HE'LL ESCORT YOU TO THE CONSTABLE!"

THEY SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE ME!

GET IN, THE BOTH OF YOU!

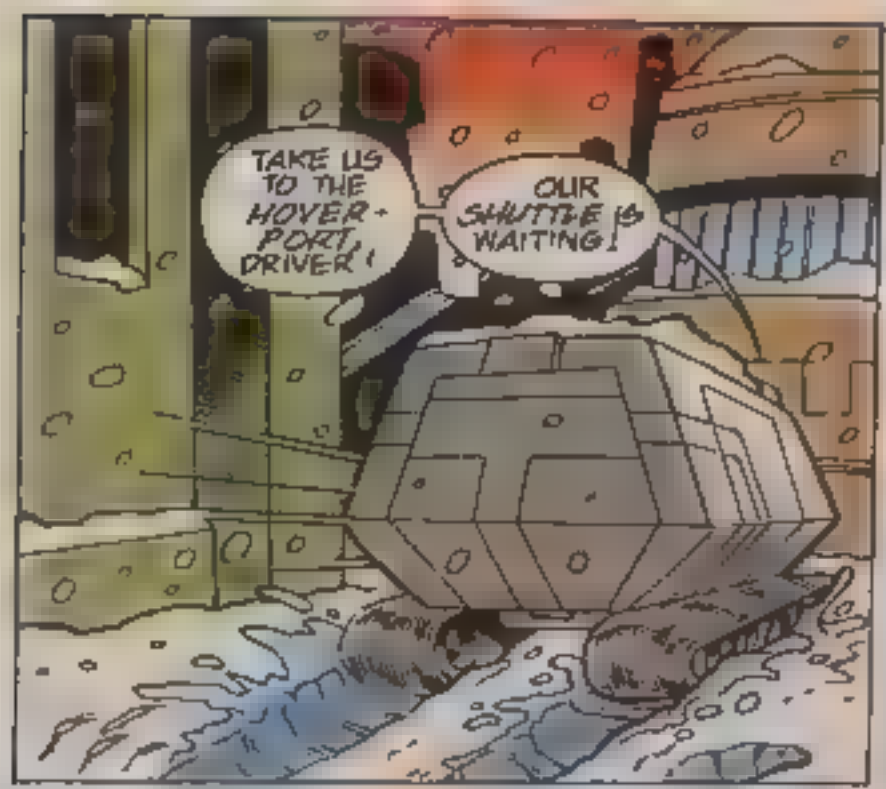
HELLO, M'DEAR!

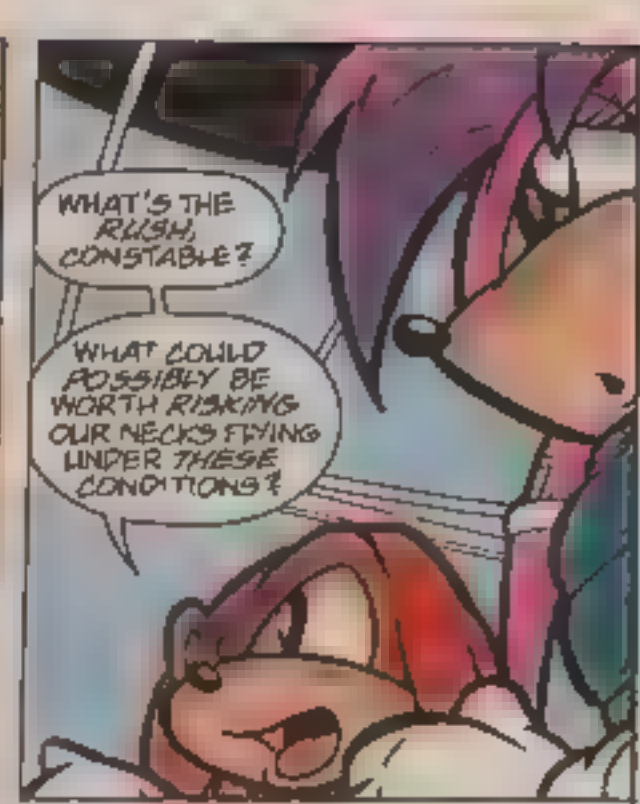
KNUCKLES!

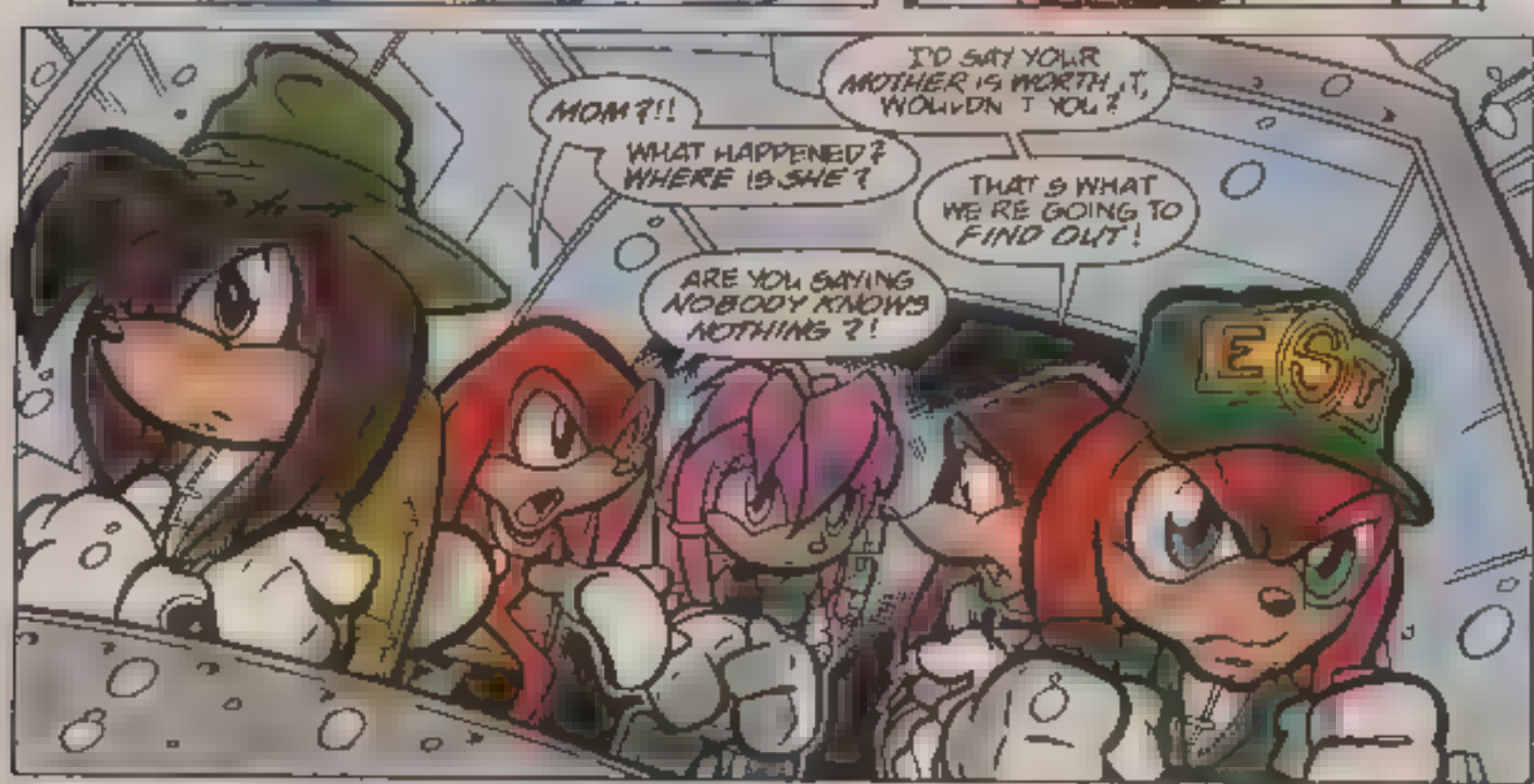
HI.

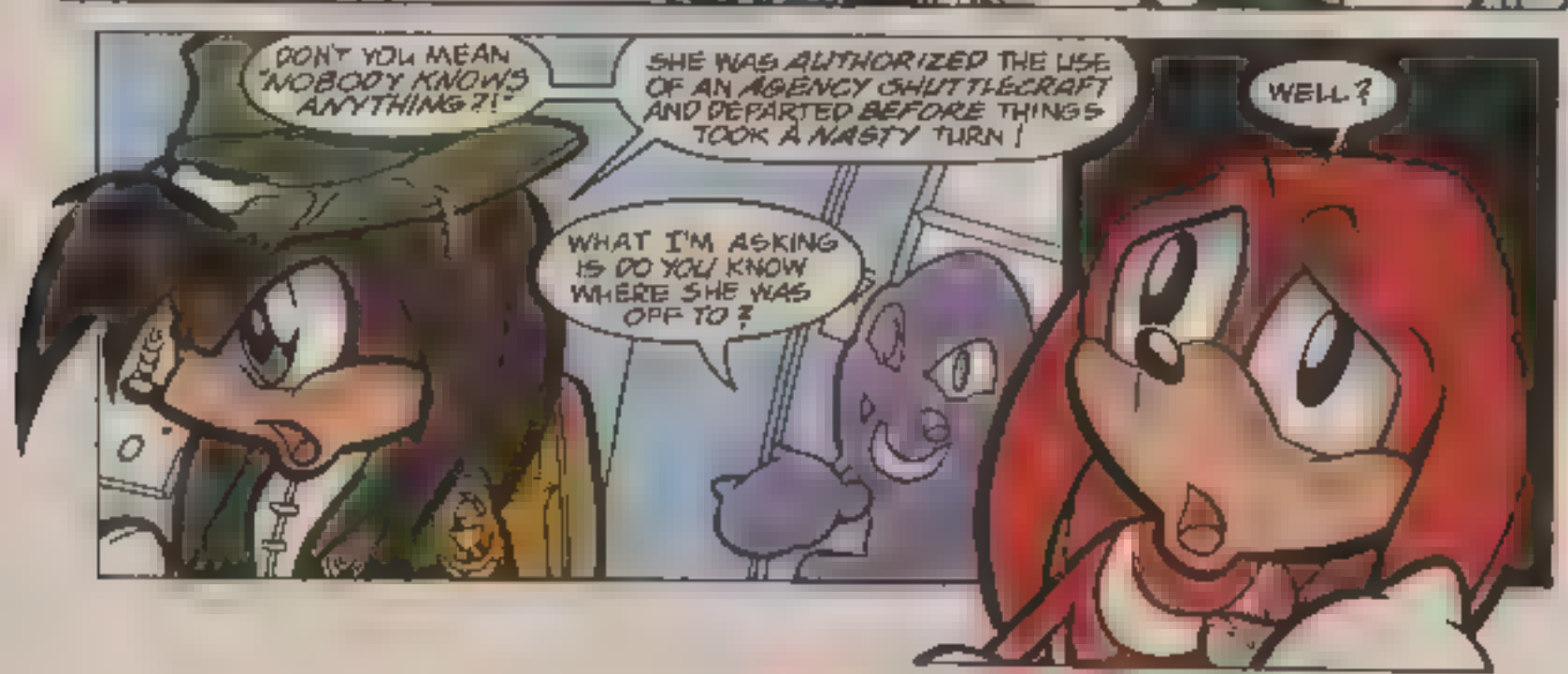
SIR!

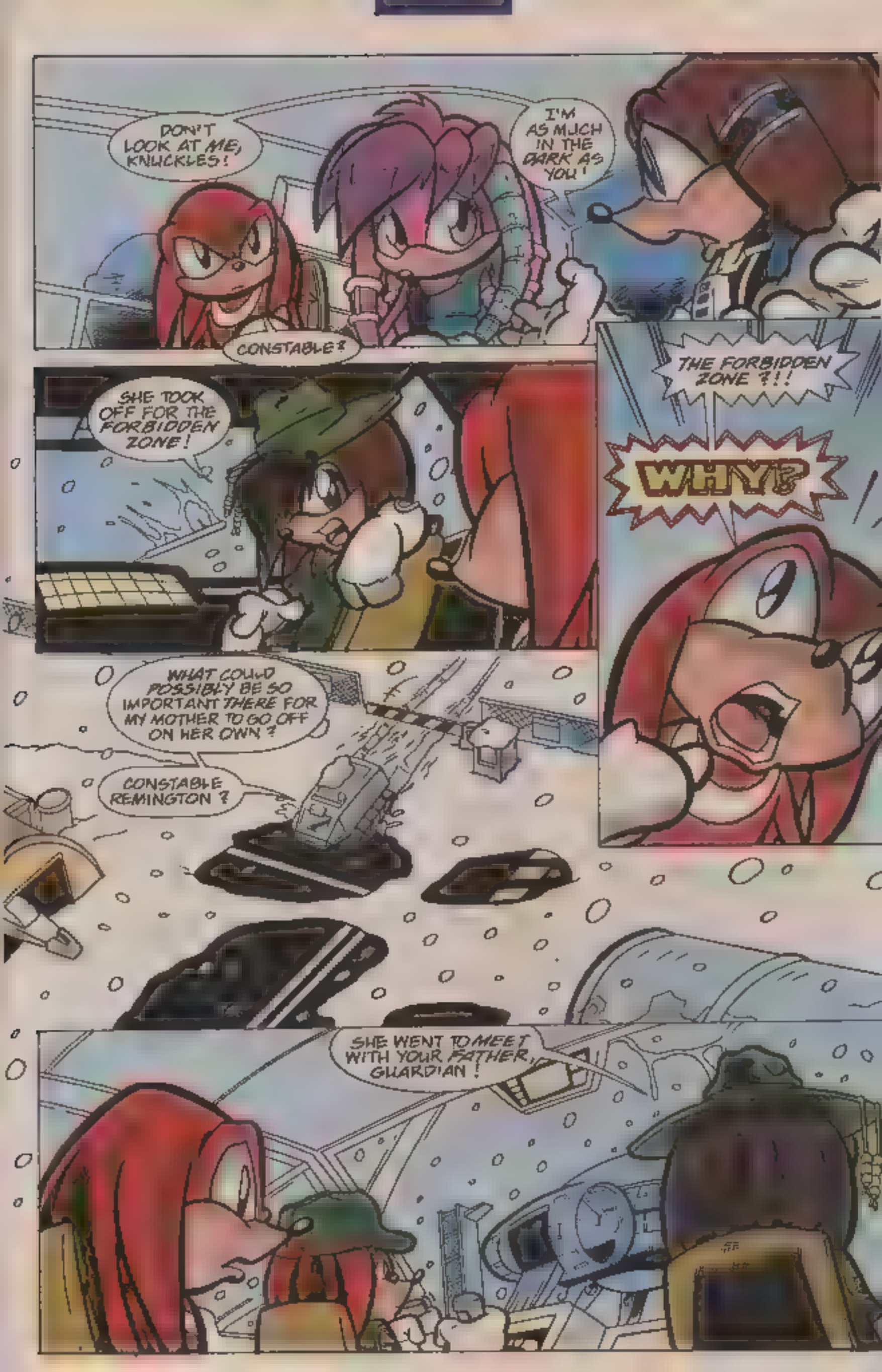
IS EVERYONE SET BACK THERE?


TAKE US TO THE HOVER-PORT, DRIVER!
OUR SHUTTLE IS WAITING!


WHAT'S THE RUSH, CONSTABLE?
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WORTH RISKING OUR NECKS FLYING UNDER THESE CONDITIONS?


MOM?!!
I'D SAY YOUR MOTHER IS WORTH IT, WOULDN'T YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE IS SHE?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT!
ARE YOU SAYING NOBODY KNOWS NOTHING?!
EST


DON'T YOU MEAN "NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING?!"
SHE WAS AUTHORIZED THE USE OF AN AGENCY SHUTTLECRAFT AND DEPARTED BEFORE THINGS TOOK A NASTY TURN!
WHAT I'M ASKING IS DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE WAS OFF TO?
WELL?


DON'T LOOK AT ME, KNUCKLES!
I'M AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS YOU!
CONSTABLE?
SHE TOOK OFF FOR THE FORBIDDEN ZONE!
THE FORBIDDEN ZONE?!!
WHY?
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE SO IMPORTANT THERE FOR MY MOTHER TO GO OFF ON HER OWN?
CONSTABLE REMINGTON?
SHE WENT TO MEET WITH YOUR FATHER, GUARDIAN!

"MY FATHER?!!"

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A BREAK, LOCKE?

I SWEAR, YOU PRACTICALLY LIVE HERE!

LOCKE'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW!

HE'S NOT?

I GUESS HE REALIZED HE NEEDED A BREAK!

NOT AT ALL!

HE LEFT THE COMPLEX!

HE DID?

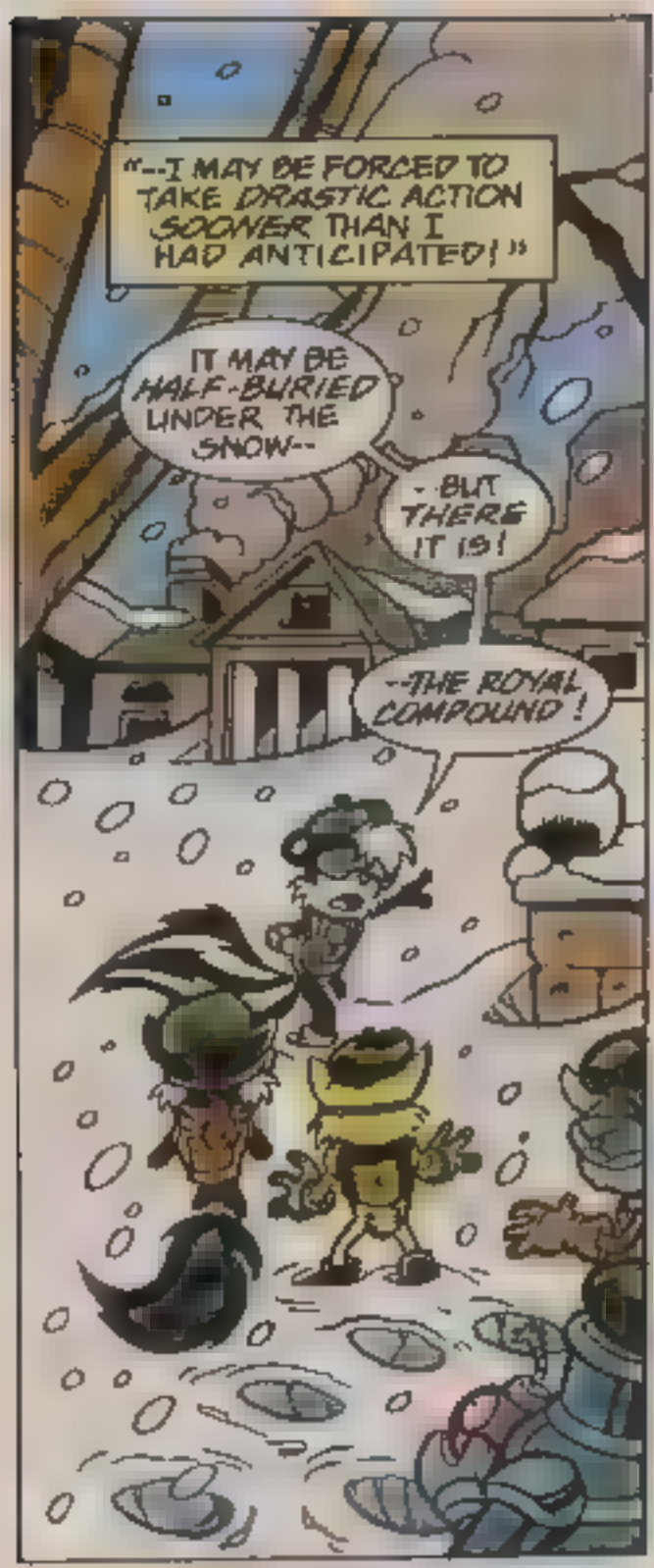
WHATEVER FOR?

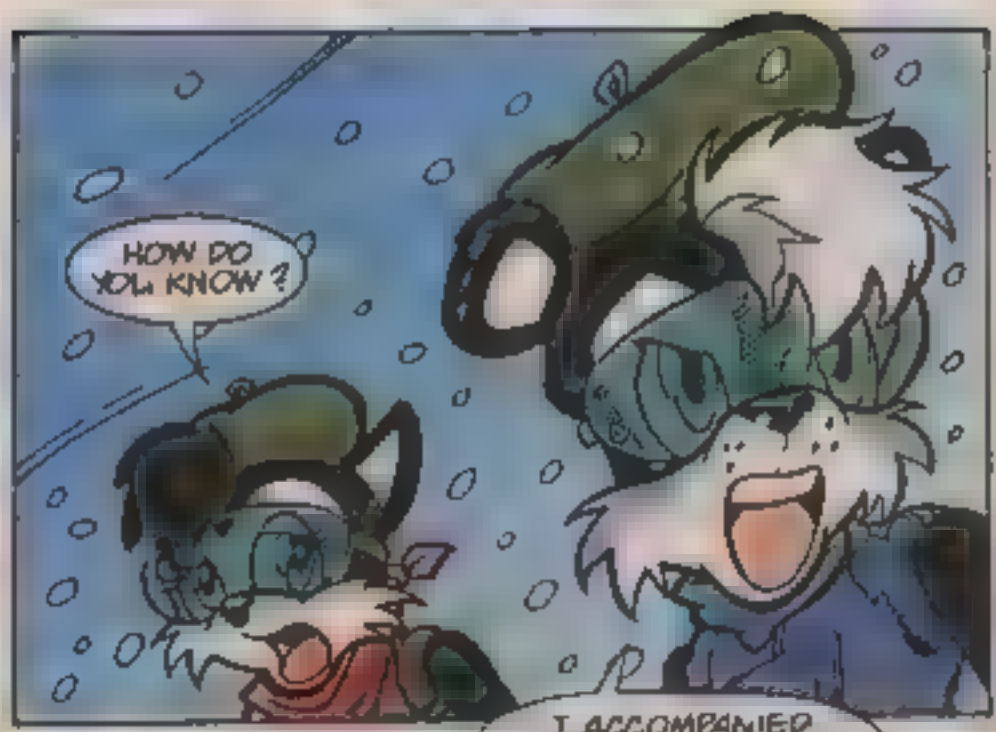
EMERGENCY DISTRESS CALL --

-FROM SHE WHO HAD BEEN LOCKE'S WIFE-- LARA LE!

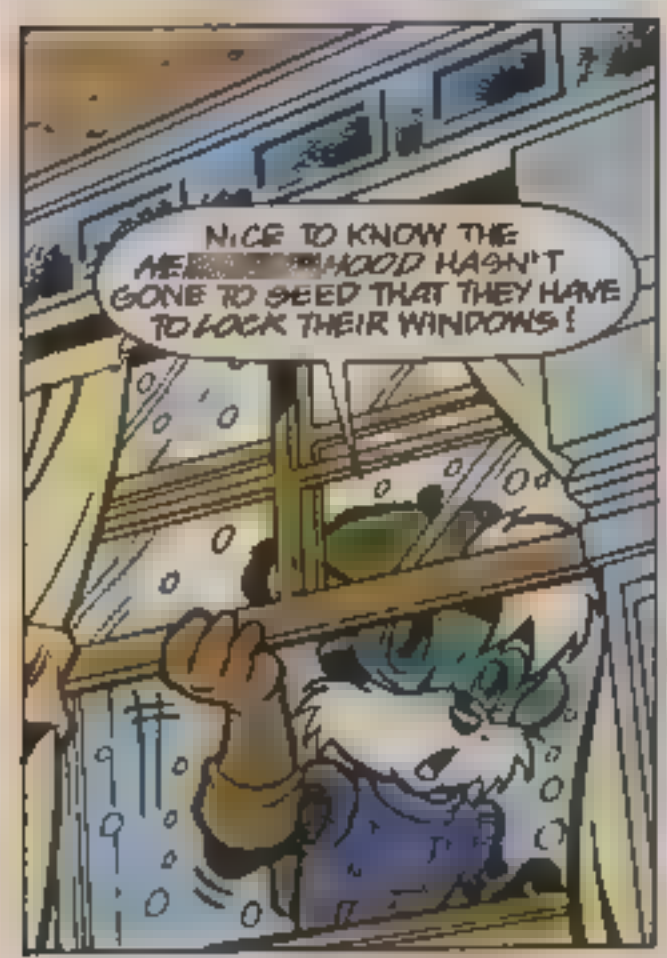
THEY'RE INSIDE THAT DOWNED SHUTTLE!

CURSE THE FATES! IF MY SECRET IS DISCOVERED--

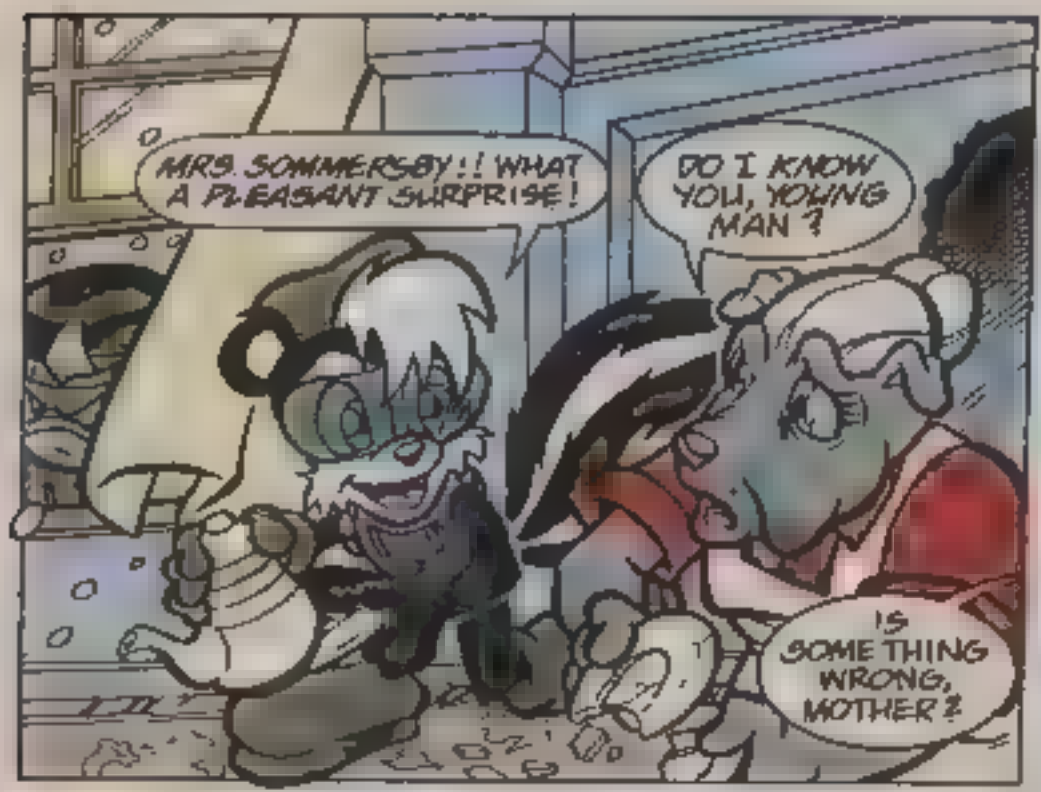

"--I MAY BE FORCED TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION SOONER THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED!"
IT MAY BE HALF-BURIED UNDER THE SNOW--
--BUT THERE IT IS!
--THE ROYAL COMPOUND!

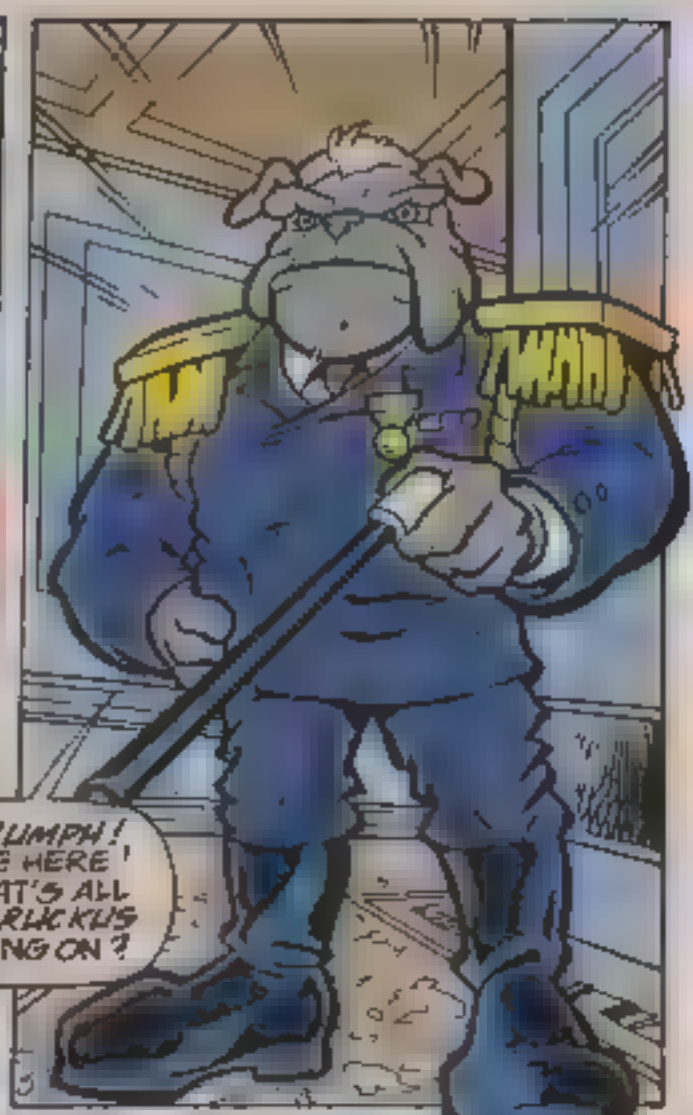

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

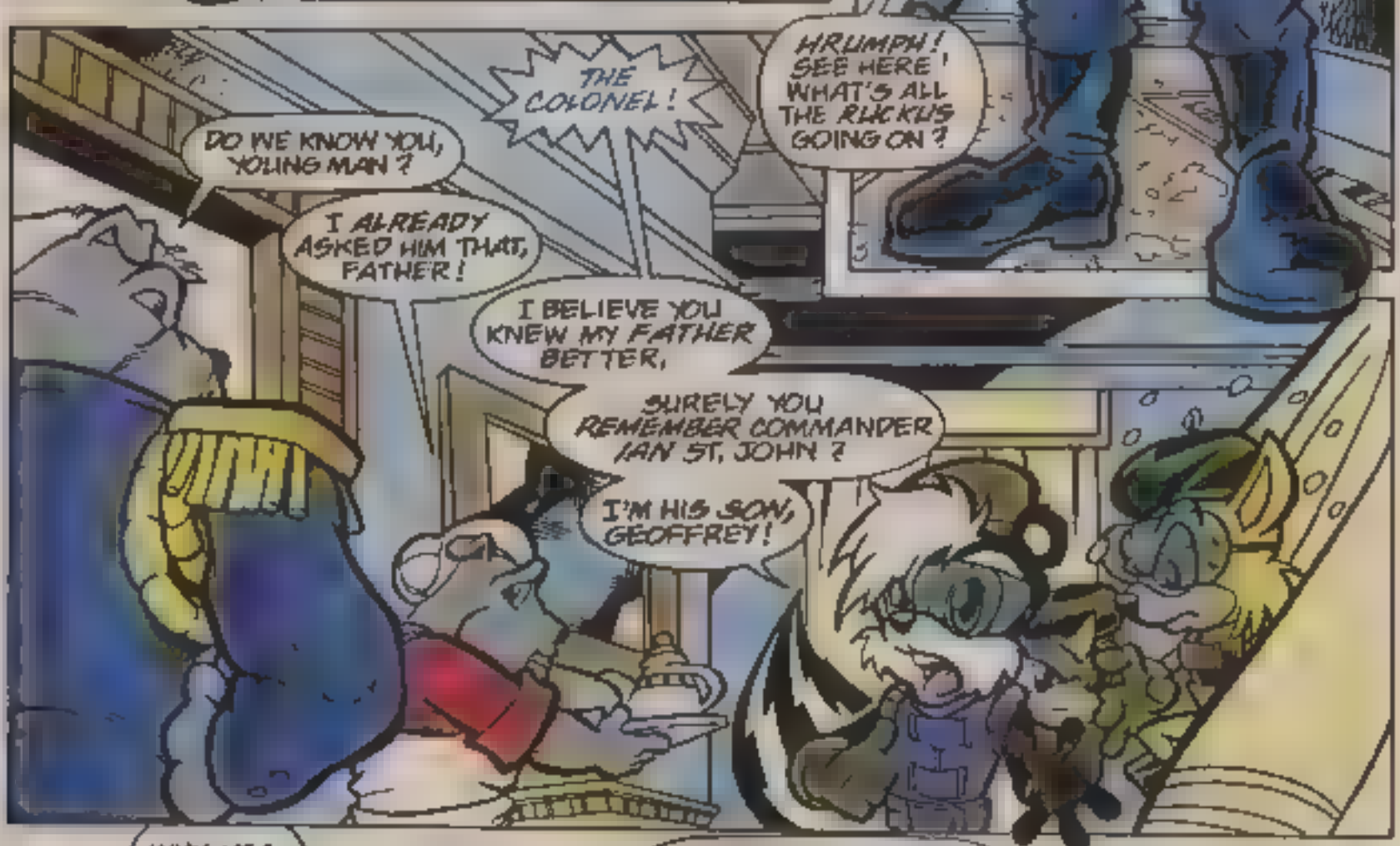
I ACCOMPANIED MY FATHER HERE ONCE YEARS AGO--
--WHEN I WAS A MERE LAD!
ONE TENDS TO REMEMBER THE HAPPIER TIMES--
--SPECIALLY SINCE THEY'VE BEEN FEW AND FAR BETWEEN LATELY!

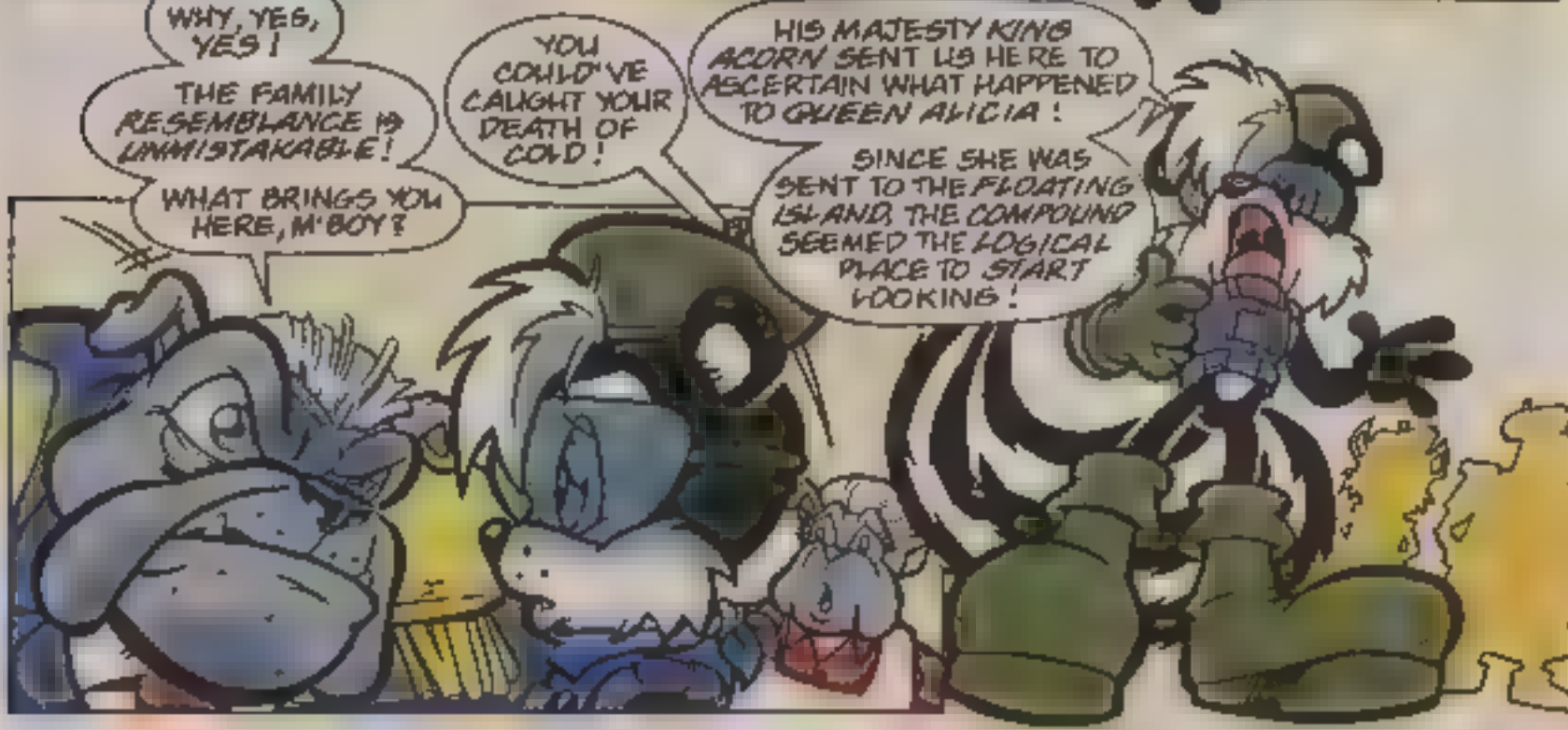

NICE TO KNOW THE ME[illegible]HOOD HASN'T GONE TO SEED THAT THEY HAVE TO LOCK THEIR WINDOWS!

NO SIGN OF ANYONE- OOPS!
SPOKE TOO SOON!
OH, MY!
KRAASH!

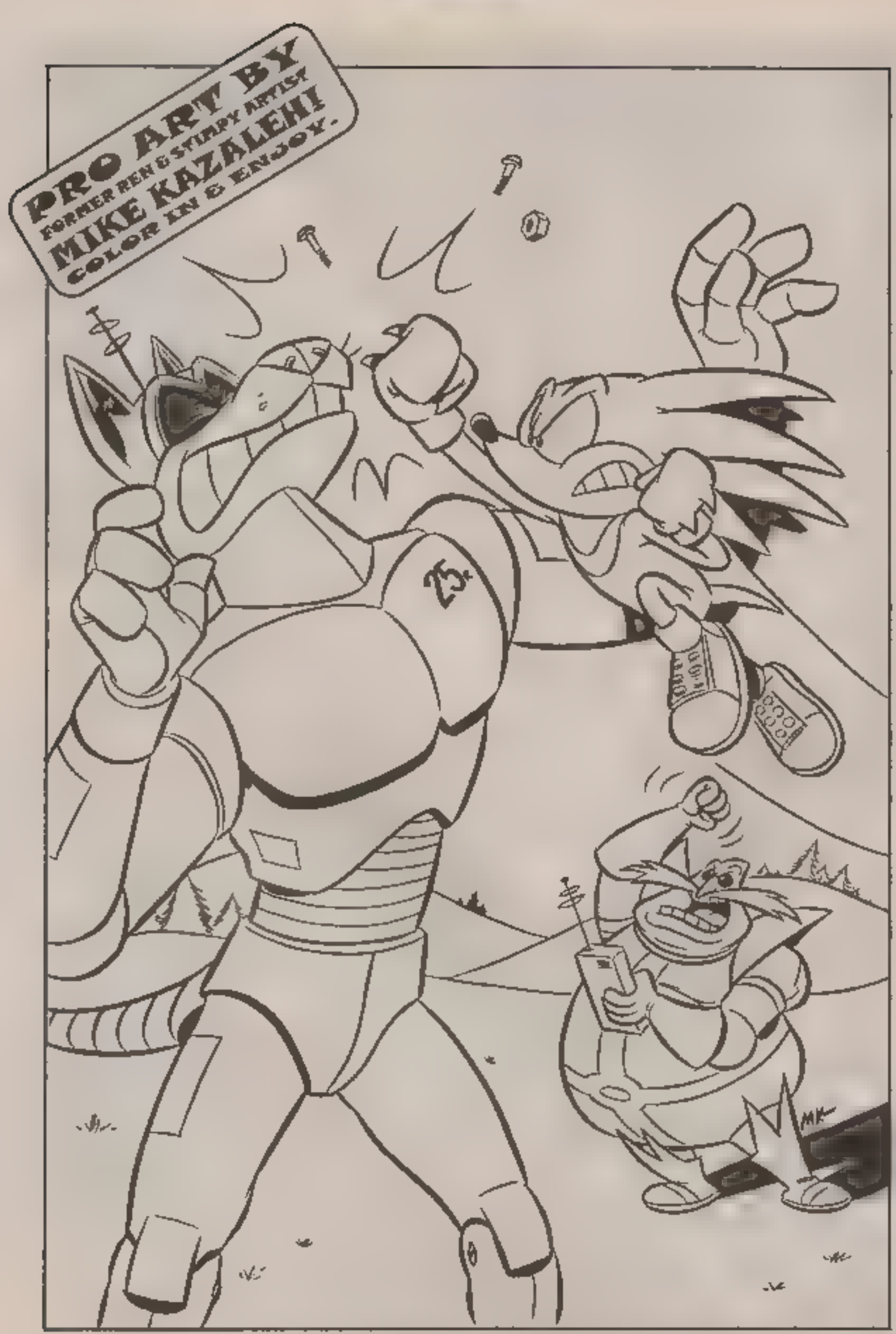

MRS. SOMMERSBY!! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
DO I KNOW YOU, YOUNG MAN?
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MOTHER?

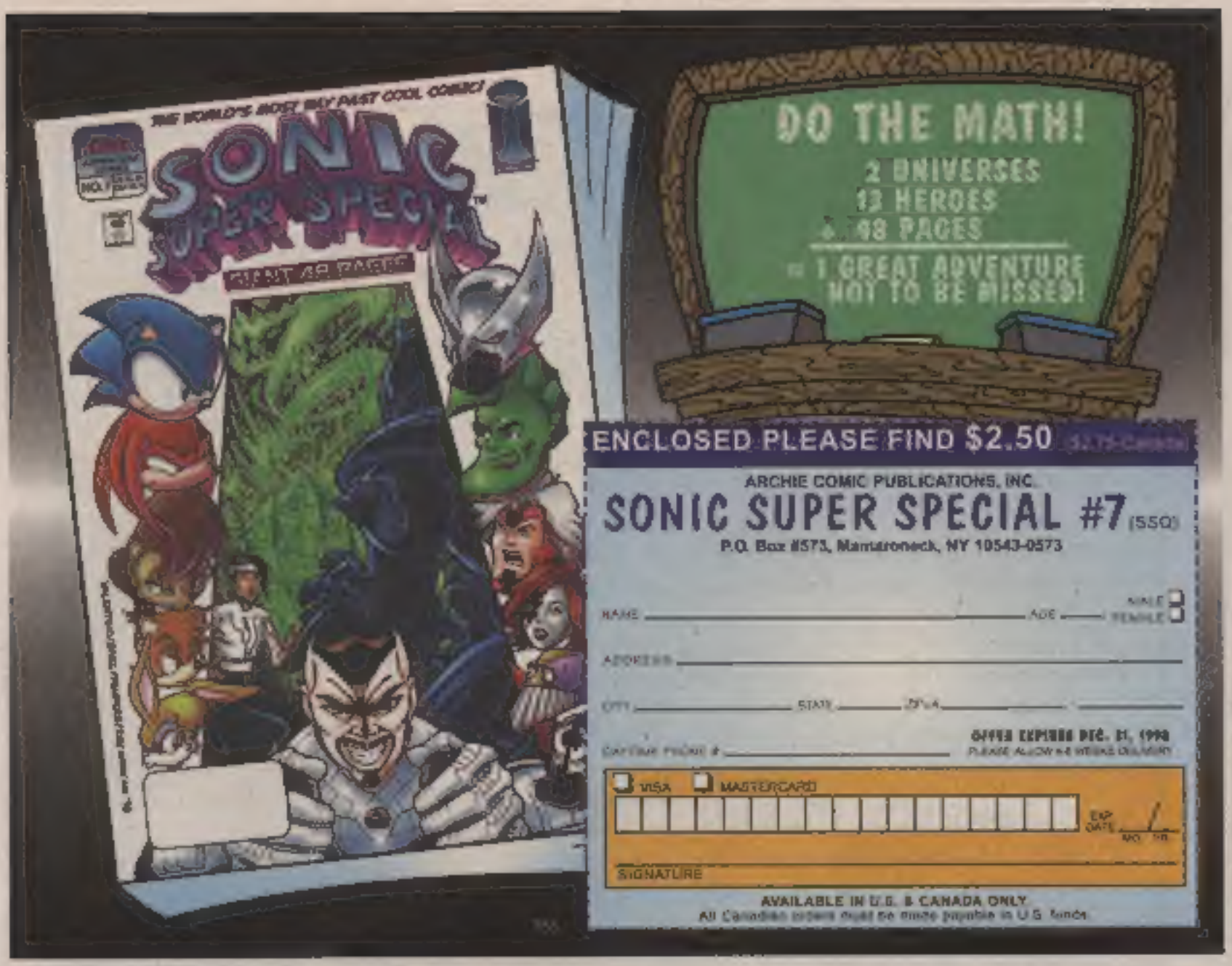

HRUMPH! SEE HERE! WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS GOING ON?


THE COLONEL!
DO WE KNOW YOU, YOUNG MAN?
I ALREADY ASKED HIM THAT, FATHER!
I BELIEVE YOU KNEW MY FATHER BETTER,
SURELY YOU REMEMBER COMMANDER IAN ST. JOHN?
I'M HIS SON, GEOFFREY!


WHY, YES, YES!
THE FAMILY RESEMBLANCE IS UNMISTAKABLE!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, M'BOY?
YOU COULD'VE CAUGHT YOUR DEATH OF COLD!
HIS MAJESTY KING ACORN SENT US HERE TO ASCERTAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO QUEEN ALICIA!
SINCE SHE WAS SENT TO THE FLOATING ISLAND, THE COMPOUND SEEMED THE LOGICAL PLACE TO START LOOKING!

DID SOMEONE MENTION MY MOTHER?
WHO--?
To Be Continued...


PRO ART BY
FORMER REN & STIMPY ARTIST
MIKE KAZALEHI
COLOR IN & ENJOY.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A FISTFUL OF LETTERS

JUSTIN F. GABRIE
EDITOR
GREG WANG
INTERN

REVISITED!

Next Month: "Once Upon a Time in Mobotropolis..." The characters find themselves skiing down the now snow-covered Floating Island. Meanwhile, **Locke** and **Lara-Le** are reunited, **Geoffrey St. John**, along with his elite crew, come across an important new character with an amazing secret, and **Knuckles** stumbles upon **Haven!** Don't miss this exciting tale! Written by Ken Penders. Art by Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy. **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #20 on sale November 1998!**

KNUCKLES
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And in one week: Sonic, Knuckles and The Freedom Fighters meet the heroes of Image Comics! While travelling the **Cosmic Interstate** in search of the stolen **Master Emerald**, they find themselves on the streets of **New York City**, teaming up with heroes like **Shadowhawk** and the **Savage Dragon**. Brought to you by the team of **Ken Penders** and **Jim Valentino**, SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7 on sale October 1998! To order, look for coupons in this very issue!

SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG #66
ON SALE OCTOBER 1998!

In four weeks: The Naugus Trilogy (Part Three of Three) "A Friend in Deed" **Sonic** and **Tails** implore the return of **Nate** to **Mobotropolis** because of his knowledge on the power rings. They are ambushed by **Ixis Naugus**. Our heroes take part in a super-powered struggle aided by Nate's rings. Who will be victorious? Story by **Karl Bollers** with art by **Steven Butler** and **Pam Eklund**. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #66 on sale October 1998!

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CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

Justin "Freddy" Gabrie

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NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF E-MAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ.
THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING!

The following letters refer to "The Forgotten Tribe" storyline appearing in KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #'s 10-12...

Every month, we receive one letter that stands out from the pack. One letter that is so special, it can only be referred to as "The Letter of the Month." This month, we congratulate Elizabeth Koculyn for joining the elite few, and we thank her for her outstanding letter:

To the many who produce the Knuckles Comics,

It is a pleasure to pick up the Knuckles comic every month. I truly appreciate all the hard work you do. In all my years of collecting comic books, I have never seen a better comic. Every month I enjoy finding out a little bit more about Knuckles' past. This is a wonderful concept you have created. I hope this remains in every issue I read. I would also like to see more echidna heroes of the female persuasion. Even though Julie-Su is present as a heroine, I feel that the comic is more centered on boys than girls. There are many girls who enjoy the comics, and I feel that there should be more heroines to take the stand along with the usual characters. A villain I would like to see more in the world of Knuckles is General D'Coolette. For either Julie-Su or Espio the Chameleon to have a mini-series would make my heart soar. They are very interesting and creative characters in themselves, and not much is known about either's past. I ask that this wish would come true. To conclude, I would like to congratulate the team for a wonderful 50 issues of Sonic comics, and I hope that someday Knuckles reaches this goal.

Elizabeth Koculyn
Bellevue, Alberta
Canada

We appreciate your praise greatly, Elizabeth. I am glad that you have enjoyed the work that we have done so far. Knuckles will continue to learn more about his family in the next couple of issues, so there is one wish of yours that may soon be granted. As for the Espio or Julie-Su comics, only time will tell whether or not they get their own titles. That is the only wish of yours that I cannot guarantee, but everything is possible in time. Thanks again for writing.

Hey Knux,

I gotta' admit that you da' man! You're true to your pals and pack a heavy punch. I may be a girl, but I still admire you. I really liked it when you saw your mother again, and can't wait until you see your father again. Which I definitely hope comes soon. I have some questions. One, what do you do for fun? What are the spikes on your hands? How close are you to Julie-Su? How do you feel about her? (Shhh, my friend thinks that you are cute.) Till next time, keep it real.

Your faithful Pal,
Laura Lynn Lovell
Fay, NC

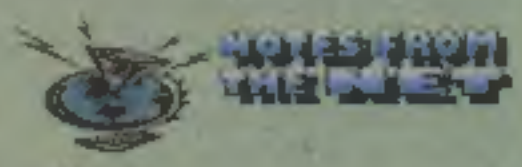
Laura, your kind words would surely make Knuckles blush. Now, the answers to your questions. For fun, Knuckles likes to relax and loves to work out. The spikes on the hands are his knuckles, and they look like spikes through his gloves. Third, he and Julie-Su are good friends; who knows if there is anything more. Keep on reading for more answers. Also, Laura, the keychain is great, THANKS!

Dear Knuckles,

I've always been a huge Sonic fan, but now I love your comics more. They're much more sophisticated. Anyway, great job on issues 10-12. I love when you and Sonic work together. Can we see more of that? Plus, I love Rob' O' Hedgehog and Lady Marion. Please let us see more of them. Keep up the great work.

Yvonne Bonillas
Imperial Beach, CA

Sonic and Knuckles will definitely be working together again sometime in the near future. Continue reading both titles (Sonic The Hedgehog and Knuckles The Echidna) to see when this happens. Also, we have been getting a lot of mail concerning Rob, so there is a good chance that he will show up again in a future issue. You seem like a true comic fan, and it's good to have people like you reading our comics.



Knux,

I just finished reading Knux #12. I was bowled over! Great idea to include Sonic in your comic! After all, you've been in so many of his. Rob O' is really something. He has to be one of my fave characters. Even though he and Mari-An are echidna and hedgehog, I still think they make the cutest couple. One question: Why are most of the echidna names spelled with a dash? Your name is just "Knuckles," but they are "Mari-An," "Julie-Su," etc?

Christy Nisco (age 15)
ChristytheGreat@webtv.net

Christy, only the female echidnas have dashes in their names. It's tradition.

SO UNTIL NEXT MONTH, STAY COOL!

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